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LIVERPOOL FC

OFFICIAL LIVERPOOL FC MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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John Barnes tribute to a legend

LFC Ladies in their own words

Tiago Ilori: my Mersey mission

Special collectors issue – literally!

[exclusive interview]

Sakho

HERE TO MAKE HISTORY

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HERE'S TO YOU, BILL

Bill Shankly was never a man for personal accolades – which was part of his great charm – but LFC and its fans could not let the occasion of what would've been his 100th birthday pass without tribute. The Kop mosaic prior to kick-off against Manchester United was followed by a minute's applause – and a win.



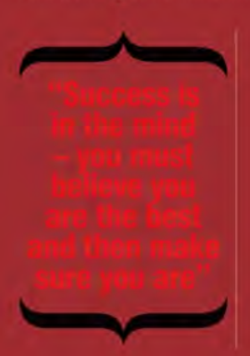
DAN'S THE MAN AGAIN

Daniel Sturridge's dance celebration has become a common sight during 2013. But such was his – and Martin Skrtel's – euphoria when he nodded in the only goal against Man United that for once the shapes had to take a back seat.



LESSONS FROM SHANKS

Amid this special anniversary *Simon Hughes* looks at what we can learn from the great man



Believe you are the best

Having worked at other clubs for more than a decade prior to Liverpool with lesser talented players, Shankly appreciated the value of boosting the confidence of individuals in order to take the team further and, perhaps, overachieve. "A lot of football success is in the mind," he said. "You must believe that you are the best and then make sure that you are."

Don't make changes for the sake of it

Unusually for a football manager, Shankly chose not to bring in his own men when he moved to Anfield from Huddersfield in 1959. It proved to be an inspired decision – the entire future of the club, long after Shankly's retirement and even his death, rested with those Bill had agreed to originally keep on. Bob Paisley, the former physio who would go on to win six league titles and three European Cups as manager, had just been appointed first-team trainer. Running the reserves was Joe Fagan, who'd win the club's fourth European Cup as part of an historic treble.

Use colour as a weapon

On special occasions like key matches, cup finals, significant television appearances, Shankly reliably wore a tangerine shirt with



a red tie – colours that are vivid and aggressive. It was also his idea to switch Liverpool's home kit from red shirt and white shorts and socks to all-red. Psychologically he thought it would intimidate opponents. It did.

Create a sense of identity

Above the stairs leading down to the pitch hangs a sign stating *This is Anfield*. It was installed by Bill and its purpose was to both overawe visiting teams and to bring the Liverpool players who touch it good luck. "It's there to remind our lads who they're playing for, and to remind the opposition who they're playing against."

Keep it simple

There was no tactical masterplan at Liverpool. Players were guided in training sessions but not overly coached. It inspired a confidence during matches where players were trusted to make key decisions themselves. "Football is a simple game based on the giving and taking of passes, of controlling the ball and of making yourself available to receive a pass," said Shankly. "It is terribly simple."

Innovate

In an era of 'notebook managers' scribbling thoughts throughout games, it is interesting to note that Shankly himself carried a book everywhere he went, jotting down every idea or useful piece of information. Knowledge was seen as power. Training systems were charted, players' fitness levels were scrupulously monitored, and Shankly began having opponents watched – which in the early 60s was relatively unheard-of.

Exaggerate

When Ron Yeats signed for Liverpool, Bill invited journalists to walk around "a colossus" whom he believed to be "seven feet tall." Yeats was indeed tall but only around 6ft 2in. Shankly was only half-joking when he said: "With him in defence we could play Arthur Askey in goal." It was a comment devised to create an air of superiority at his club.

Don't make excuses

According to Shankly there was no reason why Liverpool should lose any match. Excuses were unacceptable – too many injuries, suspensions, bad luck – it did not matter. He was particularly ruthless with injuries, seeing them as a sign of weakness. Nothing would stop him or his team. "Sickness would not have kept me away from this one,"





he said after the 1971 FA Cup semi-final win over Everton which Blues boss Harry Catterick missed through illness. "If I'd been dead I would have had them bring the casket to the ground, prop it up in the stands and cut a hole in the lid."

Keep victory in perspective

Even when Liverpool won a trophy, the focus was on the next trophy. Shankly would not stop until, like Napoleon, he had "conquered the bloody world." In order to maintain focus, he would remind the players that their achievements were relatively insignificant. "Pressure is working down the pit. Pressure is having no work at all. Pressure is trying to escape relegation on 50 shillings a week. Pressure is not the European Cup or the Championship or the Cup Final. That's the reward."

Allow players to express themselves

Shankly wanted 11 captains. He wanted to see players figure things out and rectify matters if it was going wrong. "You never got shouted at for trying to change something out on the pitch," recalls Roger Hunt. "You were always taught to work things out for yourself. Mind you, if you tried something stupid and it didn't come off we had a saying that he would 'hit you on the head with a big stick from the touchline'."

Keep the opposition guessing

Bill respected all opponents but was not afraid to approach players and try to gain a psychological advantage over them before matches. George Best recalled a moment when Manchester United came to Anfield and Shankly apprehended the visitors in the tunnel. "'Guess what, boys?' he said, brandishing a little orange ticket. 'I've had a go on the tickets that give the time when the away team will score. And it says here, in a fortnight!' With that, he disappeared back into his office." Liverpool won 2-0.

Have a response for everything

When Shankly was manager at Grimsby he was stopped by the police for speeding. The officer involved told him: "You were going a bit fast there, Mr. Shankly." To which Shankly replied: "You must have been going fast yourself to keep up with me." On another occasion Gerry Byrne asked Bill for a pay-rise after being selected to play for England. Byrne argued that international status was proof he had become a better player with his club. "I may be wrong on other points, boss," Byrne said, pressing his point. "But I am right on this one, aren't I?" "So what if you are?" Shanks told him. "Even a broken clock is right twice in a day."

Take the mickey playfully

When Shankly arrived, Everton were the city's premier club. He addressed this not just by results and trophies but by humour too. For instance, when the Blues beat Liverpool to the signing of Alan Ball after offering more money, Shankly phoned Ball to offer his congratulations. "You'll be playing near a great side," he pointed out. Even at the most sombre times Bill did not miss an opportunity. When attending the funeral of Everton legend Dixie Dean he was impressed by the size of the crowd outside St James' church. "I know this is a sad occasion but I think that Dixie would be amazed to know that even in death he could draw a bigger crowd than Everton can on a Saturday afternoon."

Put the fans first

During Shankly's 15 seasons at Liverpool he must have been the most photographed man in the North West. He would always make time for the supporters, realising that the club would not exist without them. They revered him – but he revered them too. An example of his loyalty came in 1965 when he denied a request from Beatles manager Brian Epstein for FA Cup final tickets. "I've never seen any of the Beatles standing on the Kop and any tickets I have spare will be going to my mates on the Kop."

Recognise your mistakes...

...and be ruthless. It is never too late to change things. Shankly stood loyal to players like Ian St John and Ron Yeats for 18 months too long. After a humbling defeat in the FA Cup to Watford in 1970, he decided to rip up his squad and start again. It was a painful process for the manager and his players but it proved to be the right route to take. Within three seasons his Liverpool team were winning European trophies.

Don't make enemies

Bill's remaining family members recall the great man repeating this mantra: "We were pro-Liverpool and anti-nobody." Shankly got on with most managers. Feuds did not last long. For example, he said that Brian Clough was "worse than the rain in Manchester – at least the rain in Manchester stops occasionally." Yet the pair got on famously.

Love football

Shankly's life was his profession. He was an obsessive. He could never be confined to office hours, and it was once reported that he celebrated a wedding anniversary by taking his long-suffering wife Nessie on a scouting mission to lower-league Rochdale. Bill refuted that allegation as only he could: "Of course I didn't take my wife to see Rochdale as an anniversary present – it was her birthday! Would I have got married in the football season? Anyway, it was Rochdale reserves..."


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17



I'M HERE TO WIN THINGS WITH LIVERPOOL

Mamadou Sakho left his beloved PSG to pursue a new dream at Anfield, he tells John Hynes



A few days after Mamadou Sakho joined Liverpool, the club's first-team physio Chris Morgan tweeted: *Had to reinforce the equipment for one of the new signing's strength screening #Powerhouse #Sakho.*

The line may not have been as eloquently-put as Bill Shankly's famous description of Ron Yeats being a colossus. However, the message is similar: Sakho has presence. Watching him bound down the stairs at Melwood, wearing bright white trainers, confirms as much. Although not as tall as you might expect, the French defender cuts an imposing figure.

When our photographer asks Mamadou to express his 'mean and moody' side he does so without any fuss. It almost comes naturally. The sight brings a smile from the passing Daniel Sturridge, who cheekily enquires: "Do you need a pretty face for the picture?"

"He's one of the most gifted players of his generation and ready to play in England"

That line from the striker cracks Sakho's facade and he laughs. Although easily able to intimidate when required, he is actually a friendly individual. This is demonstrated when he tells us "I am in no rush" as he sits down to answer our questions.

Mamadou feeling at home at Melwood

Way back in September 2008 the *Scout* section of the Sky Sports website focused on Sakho. They suggested his potential value could one day be £15 million. At that point, and until recently, his name may have been unfamiliar to Premier League fans. On the other side of the English Channel he has long been tipped as a future star.

"Mamadou is one of the most gifted players of his generation," says Timothe Crepin of *France Football* magazine. "He has played at every level with the various French under-age teams. He is a solid defender who, physically, is very well equipped to play in England."

Hailing from Paris, he was born in the 18th Arrondissement – an area of Paris likened to London's Tower Hamlets. "Sometimes it was tough for my parents to earn a living and they moved around to find work," he recalls. "My mum did some different jobs, such as a chambermaid in a hotel. It was an enjoyable childhood.



We didn't need much to keep us happy – just a football and a few mates to have a game. Once we had that there were no worries."

When he was eight the family moved to the eastern Paris district of Porte De Vincennes. While still new to the area, he would spend evenings kicking a ball around by himself in front of their home. On one occasion a man walked past. Sakho smiles as he recalls the moment. "He asked me to show him what I could do. When he asked me to show him some more tricks I started heading the ball.

"He gave me an address and told me to turn up there the following Wednesday for a trial at Paris FC. I know it sounds like a dream, but that's what happened."

The French club, now in the country's third division, had formed in 1969 and later amalgamated with Stade Saint Germain to form PSG before going their separate ways again. Filled with excitement, the youngster couldn't sleep the night before the big day. "I went to bed in my kit, I even had my boots on because I wanted to make sure I was ready."

The audition went well and he became a Paris FC player. Although a big moment in a young life, the idea of one day earning a living from the game hadn't entered Sakho's mind. "Becoming a professional didn't occur to me then. I just went along with my boots over my shoulder and enjoyed playing with friends. There was a nice atmosphere at the club."

Operating mainly as a left midfielder, he stayed there for four years. Then PSG came calling.

It sounds like the perfect location for a young and talented Parisian to fulfill his potential. Initially, though, that was not the case. "Eventually I did have a great time at PSG," Sakho explains. "But at the start it wasn't easy for me – I found it difficult to adjust during the first six months.

"I suppose I was a little bit of a rebel. I'm from the suburbs of Paris, an area where kids don't pay too much attention to what their parents say. If my mum told me to go to bed at eight o'clock I didn't really listen. So a guy at the PSG dormitory had no chance



Sakho was a 46th-minute sub in France's 2-1 win over England at Wembley in Nov 2010. Playing for England in the friendly (or 'amical' in French) were Steven Gerrard, Jordan Henderson and Andy Carroll, all of Liverpool.



A 2008 French League Cup winner with PSG

New club, new challenge

"Being a leader isn't something that has ever worried me – I've always embraced it"

of telling me when it was time for lights out. It got to the point where I had just had enough. I came home and told my dad I was finished."

A coach at the club named Christian Mas intervened. "He spoke to my parents and sorted it out. I stayed, and from that point on everything went well for me at the academy."

Mas, now working as part of the backroom staff with the Oman national side, would become a pivotal figure in Sakho's life. "During his first year with us Mamadou lost his dad," he says. "It was obviously a difficult and painful moment so I tried to look after him. I paid him more attention than the other youngsters.

"Since then we have always kept in touch. During the summer we exchanged a few text messages. I am extremely proud of him, very proud of the courage he has displayed to leave Paris to try to win a place in the Liverpool team."

When former PSG defender Paul Le Guen, now in charge of the Oman national team, returned to become manager at the French club in January 2007 he noticed the capabilities of Sakho and sought him out for a chat. "I was maybe 16 and had just started training with the first team," says Mamadou. "Paul told me that I had it all and I could play for France if I continued working hard."

Such advice is probably employed to motivate youngsters all over the world. Le Guen backed up his words by putting Sakho in the team for a game away at Valenciennes that October.

Cedric Chapuis, a French football journalist, explains how it came about: "The manager was upset by the performances of the senior players. He dropped some of them and brought in six or seven youngsters. Sakho was one of those and he chose him as captain for the day. He was, and still is, the youngest captain in the history of the club."

After the game, a goalless draw in which ex-Red David Ngog also featured for PSG, Le Guen was asked about the temporary skipper. "Sakho loves the club and symbolises this new generation, for which we have such high hopes," he commented.

A solid home debut v Southampton

Leading out your boyhood team at the age of 17 would probably overwhelm most individuals. When Sakho was given the news before the match, he responded by laughing. He didn't see it as a problem, more of a continuation of what had gone before.

"All through my career, whether it was at the age of 12, 15 or in the reserve team, I'd been given that responsibility," he says. "With the U16 and U17 national team I'd been captain too. So to do it for the first team didn't bring extra pressure. Being a leader isn't something that has ever worried me. I've always embraced it."

In 2011 he became the captain on a permanent basis. When asked why numerous managers have seen him as their leader on the pitch he is too modest to list his qualities. "It's hard to say why someone is [a captain]. Perhaps Steven Gerrard is better placed to answer that. I think the most important thing for me – with or without an armband – is to give my all and do my utmost for the team."

PSG's 2-0 home win over Guingamp earlier this season was hardly a classic, with the goals from Adrien Rabiot and Zlatan Ibrahimovic coming in injury time. What made the evening memorable were those on the terraces. Among the crowd of 44,943 the name of Sakho was chanted. 'Thank you!' they sang in acknowledgement of their former defender's efforts.



With Ancelotti under the PSG media glare

"Winning the title with PSG was magnificent, now I want it with Liverpool"

This followed on from a letter the PSG supporters' club, *Paris Kop*, penned to Sakho in which they described his departure as similar to 'a child leaving the family nest to start a new life'.

Mention of his hometown team creates a glint of recognition in the player's eyes. "I am one of them," he says of the Parc des Princes' regulars. "*Un enfant du club.* I can understand why they might be sad because not many players come through the ranks there. I grew up in Paris and spent a long time with the club."

Clearly, leaving wasn't an easy decision for the 23-year-old and he only decided to do so after giving it plenty of thought. Since the Qatar Investment Authority first became involved during 2011, life at Paris St Germain had undoubtedly changed. In the manager's office Antoine Kombouare was replaced by Carlo Ancelotti, who then left for Real Madrid during the summer and was succeeded by current incumbent and former Marseille, Inter and Manchester United defender, Laurent Blanc. Much coveted players like Ibrahimovic, Ezequiel Lavezzi, Edinson Cavani and Javier Pastore arriving illustrated the lofty ambitions of the owners.

In Sakho's position Alex and Thiago Silva were purchased. It meant he enjoyed less and less playing time. In July there was also the signing of another Brazilian defender, Marquinhos, from Roma.

"There was plenty of competition for places," Sakho confirms. "I don't mind that. I think it's good. But for me it no longer felt like healthy competition. I began to think that, no matter what I did, the team was already picked."

He has no regrets about departing and looks back on his years in France with plenty of pride. "PSG will always be in my heart. But when you're not part of someone's plans it's a simple choice. I left with my head held high.

"When I started out as a boy I wanted to be successful with PSG and it happened. I won the French Cup, the League Cup and the league. Winning the title was magnificent. Now I want to do the same with Liverpool. That's why I'm here."



Still from a YouTube tribute

With the Little Blues

In 2007 Sakho was a member of the France squad that travelled to South Korea for the U17 World Cup finals. After finishing second in a group that contained Japan, Haiti and eventual champions Nigeria, the French reached the last eight. There the adventure ended with a penalty shoot-out defeat by Spain. France's top scorer (with four) was Damien Le Tallec, the cousin of former Liverpool player Anthony.

Victor Moses, who joined the Reds on the same day as Sakho, also took part in the tournament. Although the winger now plays for Nigeria, he netted England's opening goal in a 1-1 draw with North Korea. The Three Lions also lost at the quarter-final stage, to Germany.

Speed, skill and a touch of guile – Daniel Sturridge has got it all

Didi HAMANN

When I joined Manchester City in the summer of 2006 I noticed a young striker who possessed plenty of talent. Daniel Sturridge had ended the previous campaign by scoring twice in the FA Youth Cup final against Liverpool and impressing everyone who watched that game [LFC won 3-2 on aggregate].

He was still a kid but there was no doubting his potential. He could do anything and everyone at City rated him very highly. I've seen plenty of players who, at the age of 17 or 18, look like they can go on to enjoy great careers but don't do so due to a variety of reasons. I thought Daniel had a real chance. However, you can never be certain. Progressing from a talented teenager to first-team regular is a huge jump. There are many obstacles in the way, as Daniel has found out.

Unfortunately some niggling injuries prevented him from getting a consecutive run out with the first team at City. He eventually moved on to Chelsea where, apart from a short spell, it just didn't happen for him. I think those experiences make him really appreciate what he's got at Liverpool now. He seems to like the club and is enjoying his football.

The way he started the season was superb. I've played with some great strikers. Jurgen Klinsmann and Jean Pierre Papin were nearing the end of their careers when I was at Bayern Munich but their quality was still obvious. At Newcastle there was Alan Shearer and then I was lucky enough to work with Michael Owen, Robbie Fowler, Emile Heskey, Jari Litmanen and Nicolas Anelka at Liverpool.



Sturridge starred in the 2006 FA Youth Cup final

> **"His all-round game is superb and his pace allows Liverpool to stretch opponents"**

That list contains different types of strikers. What I like about Daniel is that he can do everything. His all-round game is superb. Pace is one of his major and most noticeable assets. Before he joined in January I felt the team was lacking in that department. His speed allows Liverpool to stretch opponents. Defenders don't want him running in behind them so they drop off deep. That creates more room for Sturridge and his team-mates.

Then there is his ability to beat opponents with trickery. Not too many centre-forwards can go past men or evade challenges the way he does. Technically he is very good too.

Strikers are judged first and foremost on the number of goals they contribute. Daniel has excelled in that department. The variety of his goals has also been impressive. Against Stoke he drilled in a long-range shot. The winner in the Man United game was a close-range poacher's effort. And his equaliser at Swansea was all about a striker's ability to anticipate a chance and move accordingly.

When strikers are in such form it's great to play alongside them. You just want to give them the ball as early as possible. If you can feed them possession quickly that means they are able to turn quicker and go towards goal. Defenders hate facing that. The goal I mentioned in the Stoke game is a prime example of it.

Another plus to having a striker in good form is the belief it gives the rest of the team. When Michael Owen was at his best we knew that if we were one, or even two goals, down we still had a chance because he usually only needed a single opportunity to score. That knowledge gives you extra motivation to keep going.

With Daniel playing the way he is Brendan Rodgers' team are probably feeling the same way. To see him doing so well is very pleasing. His desire to make it has always been there and it's helped him get this far.

Follow Didi on Twitter @dietmarhamann



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BARNES

On the eve of a special celebration the Liverpool legend's place in Anfield folklore is assessed by *Simon Hughes*

John Barnes was a genius footballer. In his earliest years at Liverpool particularly he was untouchable – the most consistently outstanding player in the country.

Barnes was Liverpool's no10 with a difference. Despite his starting position being on the left wing, he was given a freedom to operate where he wished by manager Kenny Dalglish. He did not seem to move as fast as other wingers in the league, but few could catch him. His balance disobeyed science, with burly defenders repelled by those immense thighs.

His bulk strength and rapid feet marked him out as a centre-forward and when space was found in that area of the field the outcome was unforgiving. In his first four years at the club, he averaged more than 15 goals a season, contributing

towards two league titles (1988 and 1990) and a successful campaign in the FA Cup (1992).

Footballers though have long been defined solely by their impact as a professional: their achievements. Perhaps there is too little consideration for the sacrifices, no matter how relative, that went before.

I met Barnes, who celebrates his 50th birthday next month, to write a chapter about him for my new book *Red Machine*. I knew about John Barnes, the Liverpool player. But I was keen to find out more about what made the footballer – John Barnes, the person.

I was aware that he made engaging copy. Barnes has always spoken eloquently and thoughtfully on the subject of racism in football and society at large. He has done so from a position of experience. He was the first black footballer to be signed from another club by either Liverpool or Everton. "Football reflects society so it's foolish to separate the two," he says.

He has a balanced perspective on life. He told me his values stem from a childhood amongst brigadiers and army generals in a prosperous barrack suburb of Kingston, the capital of Jamaica. His father, a colonel in the country's Defence Force, and his mother, a senior academic lecturer on science of the mind, raised the family with a blend of discipline and positive thinking.

Barnes was brought up with a sense of superiority. He understood that racism was institutionalised in the UK but viewed it as a belief of the uneducated. It didn't affect him like it might others. In his eyes he was always better than that. Just as Howard Gayle, the first black footballer to represent Liverpool's first team, was a product of his upbringing, so was Barnes. Gayle was used to confronting racism for as long as he can remember on the sink estates of Norris Green; Barnes did not have to from a young age.

His personality meant he was the kind of man that everybody could get on with. His ability helped too. When supporters of a rival club hurled bananas in his direction during an FA Cup tie in 1988, he responded by delicately flicking them with his heel back towards touchline. It was typical of him but his reaction on pitch epitomised the player. Moments later he would glide down the wing and arch a cross for Ray Houghton to score a decisive goal.

"I grew up in a middle-class family and I had no self-worth issues at all," he said. "For someone to call me a black this or that doesn't make any sense to me. I consider people who use those words as ignorant.



These unique photos of John Barnes were taken by Simon Buckley in the mid-1990s for *Goal* magazine. "It was an idea I had to portray Barnes as a Liverpool 'elder'. I turned up with a suit and he agreed – 'as long as you don't ask me to do anything stupid'." There's more of Simon's work at simonbuckley photographer. wordpress.com.

Why should I let it affect me when it doesn't?"

Barnes displays an impressive mix of intelligence and understanding (a word he uses regularly) that makes him try to look at the opposite point-of-view to appreciate it better. He arrived in England during the early winter months of 1976. It was a time of social chaos and political shifts. Yet Barnes, aged 12, was shielded. In London his family first lived in the Selfridge Hotel near Oxford Street before moving into the affluent area of Hampstead. He was enrolled into one of the more reputable inner-city state schools, Marylebone Grammar.

He liked football but it was not an obsession. Before entering career in the military, his father Kenneth had played for as an amateur, managed and became president of the Jamaican national team and the FA. Although the West Indies is more famous for its cricket – and Jamaica indeed has provided both batting guile and bowling force with Michael Holding, Jeffrey Dujon and Courtney Walsh all hailing from the island – football is unchallenged as the sport of the people. "My footballing heroes were all West German. I fell in love with the team of 1974. I could not take my eyes off Franz Beckenbauer and Wolfgang Overath. I'd choose them over Pele any day of the week. My first pair of boots were also made by Adidas."

Aged 16 he joined Sudbury Court in the Middlesex Premier Division. Scouts became interested in the teenager with muscular thighs and ballet feet. Representatives from Ipswich Town, Watford and Queens Park Rangers all paid visits. Barnes however had no ambition of becoming a footballer, insisting he wanted to complete his education by taking up a degree in the United States.

Undeterred, Watford finally persuaded him to sign a short-term contract at Vicarage Road. Watford were a club on the rise, the prototype traditional English football team for whom a midfield was merely something to bypassed. It was remarkable that a player of Barnes' elegance managed to flourish in such a chaotic system. In 1984 they reached the FA Cup final, losing to Everton.

"It was a fairy-tale for us; the journey we had been on from the Fourth Division to the First. We expected to win. We finished above Everton in the league. Yet the build-up for us was like our big day-out. It was a novelty because it hadn't been done at Watford before. At Liverpool there was more of a focus – you had to win. The week isn't important, the story doesn't matter, it's only about winning. With Watford it was almost as if we enjoyed the week so much that we forgot to turn up on the day because



"I saw more of the ball with Liverpool than England – possession suited me"

we played well below the standards that had got us there in the first place."

Barnes joined Liverpool already an international footballer. Yet having elected to represent England, his performances were scrutinised. It prompted Bobby Robson to describe him as the 'greatest enigma' he'd encountered in 30-years of football management. Barnes though has his own explanation for the supposedly contrasting fortunes.

"When I played for Liverpool I would receive the ball 20 or 30 times a game. That was enough to maybe score a goal or provide an assist from a cross or a pass. For England I would receive possession maybe five or 10 times. This was because Liverpool dominated possession whereas England didn't. There was a lot of long ball.

Red Machine Liverpool in the 1980s: the Players' Stories is published by Mainstream Publishing on 10 October.

"During all my time in international football I can't remember a run of games where we passed a team off the park from start to finish like we did at Liverpool.

"You don't have to be a genius to figure out that mathematically I had less of an opportunity to impress. Okay, I did okay at Watford – a team that played with a similar style to England, but the focus wasn't on Watford like it was with England. Some games at Watford would go by without me touching the ball but nothing would get said in the papers afterwards. Possession football suited my game and that's why I excelled with Liverpool."

Barnes arrived at Anfield for a £900,000 sum that was believed to be considerable. Within months however his performances made it seem like a knockdown fee. Under Dalglish he was liberated: slotting in as a unique type of winger – running, dribbling, crossing; but moving in-field too. Liverpool's attacking portfolio was enhanced further by the signings of Peter Beardsley and John Aldridge to compensate for the semi-retirement of Dalglish himself as well as Ian Rush.

Beardsley, despite holding the natural poise of a postman with a heavy sack on his shoulders, reliably managed to find pockets of space and exploit them, creating possibilities. Aldridge meanwhile was an artisan rather than an artist but possessed an intimate understanding of the penalty area and its complexities.

Barnes particularly, though, was on a different level. His brilliance was marked at the end of his debut season in the red jersey when he collected the PFA and Football Writer's player of the year awards.

It prompted the legendary Tom Finney to comment: "Players like John Barnes come along just once in a lifetime."

10 brilliant John







1

THE FIRST GAME

Highbury Saturday 15 August 1987. Over 55,000 are witness to the start of something special. Nine minutes into the opening match of the new season a







THE ONE VERSUS QPR

If his first goal of this game on **Saturday 17 October 1987** was classy – a swift one-two with Aldo then neat finish – the second was a thing of wonder.







3

BLUE MURDER

Two assists in the derby of **Sunday 1 November 1987** either side of half-time. On 35 minutes Barnes kills a loose clearance in the centre-circle and threads







HERO AND VILLANS

In white shirt and red shorts Liverpool are dominating an FA Cup fourth-round tie at Villa Park on **Sunday 31 January 1988** but it takes a moment of magic







5

FOREST FIRE

Barnes isn't on the scoresheet in this historic 5-0 win over Forest on **Wednesday 13 April 1988** but he steals the show – not least on 78 minutes when he

Barnes moments





beautifully lofted cross from Barnes is met by Aldridge's strong header into the back of the Arsenal net. In the late summer sunshine we have lift-off.






Barnes wins the ball off Brock on halfway, slaloms past Fenwick into the box and slides the ball past Seaman for a goal that brings the house down.





through the eyes of blue needles for McMahon to score. On 70 his back-heel leads to a cross and Beardsley's half-volley at Southall's near post.






to break the deadlock. Houghton's lofted cross is heading behind Barnes but he arches back to guide a header home from outside the six-yard box.





retrieves the ball from the corner flag at the Kop End, nutmegs Chettle, jinks past Crosby and squares for Beardsley to rifle home the fourth.



SOME FREE-KICK

It's all about power and accuracy against Arsenal on **Sunday 26 November 1989** as he sweeps the ball up and over Dixon, Richardson, Quinn, Groves,



7

OLD TRAFFORD ARTISTRY

Sunday 3 February 1991. Edge of the United box. Cruyff turn leaves Webb and Phelan queuing to get back into the ground. Sprinter's acceleration past a

HEAD OVER HEELS

Saturday 15 October 1994 and Barnes meets Bjornebye's cross with a scissors-kick that flies past Flowers in the Blackburn goal to make it 2-2. "As soon



9

BARNES...RUSH...BARNES

Ninety minutes gone and only one individual inside Anfield on **Wednesday 3 April 1996** has the vision and composure – with five Newcastle defenders

10

SAINT JOHN

It's a nightmare of a clearance by Southampton keeper Dave Beasant who rushes out of his area on **Sunday 29 December 1996**, but it still takes a genius



Houghton (of Liverpool) and Thomas in the wall and past 6ft 4in John Lukic in the Gunners goal, to put a missed first-half penalty well behind him.



lunging Robson. Surge to the byline with Irwin trailing. Pinpoint cross flapped by keeper Sealey before Speedie volleys home from close range.



as it went in you thought it could win goal of the season," says Reds boss Roy Evans (but a Le Tissier belter for Southampton gets the *MOTD* vote).



converging upon him, Rush running into him and McManaman screaming for the ball behind him – to pick out Collymore unmarked on the left.



to roll the ball home with just the right pace and precision from 45 yards out to put Liverpool, kitted out in all-ecru, five points clear at the top.

100



LIVERPOOL
(Red Shirts)

1 Ray CLEMENCE
2 Phil NEAL
3 Tommy SMITH
4 Phil THOMPSON
5 Ray KENNEDY
6 Emlyn HUGHES (Capt.)
7 Kenny DALGLISH
8 Terry McDERMOTT
9 Steve HEIGHWAY
10 David FAIRCLOUGH
11 Ian CALLAGHAN

SV HAMBURG
(Blue Shirts)

1 Rudi KARGUS
2 Hans-Jurgen RIPP
3 Pete NOGLY (Capt.)
4 Casper MEMERING
5 Peter HIDIEN
6 Manfred KALTZ
7 Kevin KEEGAN
8 Ferdinand KELLER
9 Kurt EIGL
10 Felix MAGATH
11 George VOLKERT

90 HAMBURGER SV (H)
WON 6-0

European Super Cup 6 December 1977

Just months after his much-publicised move to Hamburger SV, a rising force in German and European football, former Kop favourite Kevin Keegan returned to Anfield with his new club. It was to be a night that he'd rather forget. What followed was a ruthless performance by the reigning English and European champions, who showed no mercy to their recently departed star on the night.

The Reds took the lead in the 21st minute through Phil Thompson and just before the interval Terry McDermott added a second. Two goals in a minute not long after the restart saw McDermott complete an impressive hat-trick and assured Liverpool of yet more silverware. Keegan was helpless to prevent the massacre and a cruel Kop revelled in his misfortune. In the 86th minute David Fairclough made it 5-0 and the last word was left to Kenny Dalglish, Keegan's successor in the no7 shirt, who completed the rout with a sixth goal two minutes from time.

PART TWO: 90 TO 81 By Mark Platt

GREATEST GAMES

89 CARDIFF CITY (WEMBLEY) WON 3-2 ON PENS

Carling Cup final 26 February 2012





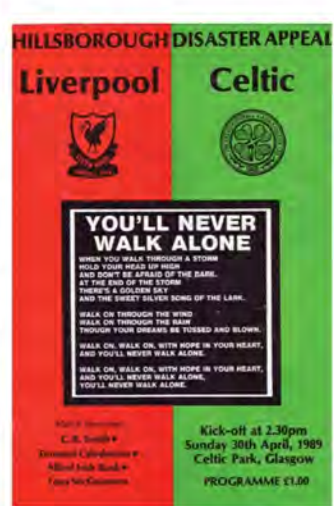
Liverpool's first visit to the new Wembley ended in glory – but only just. Championship side Cardiff City were the opponents and after Joe Mason fired them in front a major upset seemed on the cards until Martin Skrtel spared Liverpudlian blushes with a 61st minute equaliser. When Dirk Kuyt then came off the bench to make it 2-1 in extra-time the cup looked Anfield-bound. But the Bluebirds refused to accept defeat and this thrilling final took another twist two minutes from time when Ben Turner restored parity. For the fifth time a cup final involving the Reds boiled down to a shoot-out and yet again it turned out to be a joyous one. Steven Gerrard and Charlie Adam failed to convert Liverpool's first two kicks but the next three were successful, and when the captain's cousin Anthony Gerrard fired wide with Cardiff's fifth attempt LFC's six-year trophy drought was over.



88 CELTIC (A) WON 4-0
Friendly 30 April 1989

With Liverpool Football Club mourning those who had lost their lives at Hillsborough, the players took their first tentative steps back to a sense of normality when they travelled north to Scotland and pulled on their boots for the first time since that dreadful afternoon in Sheffield. The reception that greeted them in Glasgow could not have been more welcoming as a capacity crowd of 60,000 transformed Celtic Park into an emotional sea of red, white and green.

A spine-tingling pre-match rendition of *You'll Never Walk Alone* set the tone for an occasion that will forever live in the memory of those present. On the pitch it was as if a huge black cloud had been temporarily lifted for 90 minutes. Free from the harrowing pressure of life back home, Liverpool strolled to a comfortable win – although for once the result was not at all important. The game had been a cathartic experience for all involved and a fitting tribute to those we had lost a fortnight earlier.



87 FULHAM (H) WON 5-0
League Cup second-round second leg 5 October 1993

In the autumn of 1993, an 18-year-old Robbie Fowler breezed into the Liverpool first team like a breath of fresh air and confirmed his arrival on the big stage with a five-goal demolition of Fulham. Boss Graeme Souness had first unleashed Fowler on the same opponents a fortnight earlier in the first leg – in which the youngster had scored. In the return Robbie became only the fifth player in the club's history to score five in one game. Anfield may have been sparsely populated on the night – only 12,541 witnessed this momentous goalscoring feat – but word quickly spread. A star was born and Fowler's famous five – three with his left foot, one with his right and one with his head – left Souness admitting: "I do not want to go overboard about him, but I think he's going to be very special."



Needless to say there were great rejoicings among the Liverpool contingent after the victory, and on arriving at Tithebarn-street Station, the team was met by an enormously big and correspondingly enthusiastic crowd. Different players were carried shoulder high to their special conveyance, and after lubrication at the Alexandra Hotel, the men drove off to the Sandon, where another tremendous reception awaited them. Altogether it was a big match, a big win, and a big day for the Liverpool Club and Liverpool football. Each of the Liverpool executive must have felt honestly and pardonably proud of so great a triumph. The team has done wonders; so, indeed, have the committee and officials of the club.

Match report from The Liverpool Review on 5 May 1894

86 NEWTON HEATH (EWOOD PARK) WON 2-0
Test Match 28 April 1894

Liverpool celebrated their first season in the Football League with promotion at the first time of asking – and it was achieved courtesy of victory over a club that would become our most fierce rivals. Back in 1894 there may have been no such enmity between us and Newton Heath, the forerunners of Manchester United, but there was plenty at stake when the teams clashed in an end-of-season 'Test Match' that would determine who would compete in the following season's First Division. Unlike the modern play-off system the game pitted the champions of the Second Division against the top-flight's bottom club. As the unbeaten runaway leaders of the second tier, Liverpool went into this winner-takes-all tie at Ewood Park high on confidence – and by half-time victory was all but assured with goals from Patrick Gordon. The Football League new boys had issued an ominous statement of intent.



An Evening with Phil Thompson

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85

COLOGNE (ROTTERDAM) WON ON COIN TOSS

European Cup quarter-final play-off 24 March 1965

After goalless draws in England and Germany this close-run tie finally reached its conclusion on a night of high drama in neutral Rotterdam.

It was a venue that many believed would favour Cologne, the team from the western German city (twinned with Liverpool) but the Reds started brighter and looked to have secured their place in the semi-final after goals from Ian St John and Roger Hunt gave them a 2-0 lead. Five minutes before half-time the Germans pulled a goal back and then drew level three minutes after the restart.

An energy-sapping contest drifted into extra time but produced no further goals and in this pre-penalty shoot-out era that meant the tie would be decided on the toss of a wooden disc. Even that wasn't straightforward as the first attempt saw the disc land upright in the Dutch mud. Much to the dismay of the Cologne skipper who believed it was leaning more in his teams favour, the ref tossed again and this time it came down with the red side showing. Ron Yeats jumped for joy and Liverpool were through.

TSV MUNICH (H) WON 8-0

European Fairs Cup second-round second leg 7 Nov 1967

Liverpool's biggest win for 40 years. They raced into a two-goal lead through St John and Hateley. Smith added a third from the spot before three goals in as many minutes early in the second half. Two were scored by Hunt, taking him beyond Gordon Hodgson's long-standing club record of 246. Sandwiched in between was a Thompson strike while Callaghan later completed the scoring with a brace of his own, leaving TSV president Albert Wetzel to concede: "I have never seen a team shoot with such power from any position."

84


Anfield blockbusters shatter Munich

LIVERPOOL – SIEG HEIL

A Fairs Cup Auf Wiedersehen for German team

SPORT

Henry Coope stops Walke in sixth

How The Liverpool Echo reported on Anfield's goal glut



83
EVERTON (MAINE ROAD)
WON 3-0
FA Cup semi-final replay
27 March 1977

It may have lacked the drama of the first meeting four days earlier which ended two apiece, but Liverpool made no mistake second time around to keep their treble dreams alive with a comfortable victory at Maine Road.

At one stage it again looked like being another game clouded in refereeing controversy – with the storm over Bryan Hamilton's disallowed goal on the Saturday still fresh in the mind Clive Thomas risked the wrath of the Blues once again by awarding the Reds a 31st-minute penalty following a Mike Pejic push on David Johnson. Phil Neal smashed home the resultant spot-kick but despite their obvious superiority on the night Liverpool's Wembley ticket was not assured until late in the game, with two goals in the final four minutes from Jimmy Case and Ray Kennedy putting the seal on a much more emphatic looking scoreline.





Phil Neal converts his spot-kick (top) and celebrations

82
NEWCASTLE UNITED (H)
WON 6-5
First Division 4 December 1909

Any victory over the reigning League champions is an achievement – even more when overturning a 5-2 half-time deficit. The champions back in 1909 were Newcastle United and although both sides went into the game level on points it was the visitors who dominated the opening half. Albert Shepherd was their star man, netting four times. But following what must have been an Istanbul-esque half-time team-talk the Reds re-emerged for the second half to mount a stunning comeback. James Stewart, Ronald Orr (2) and Jack Parkinson (2) were among the scorers but it was captain Arthur Goddard who stole the headlines by netting the winner. The result was 'the most astonishing in League warfare' according to the following week's club programme.

FOOTBALL THRILLS.

MOST REMARKABLE MATCH SEEN AT ANFIELD.

A GLORIOUS RECOVERY.

A DISPUTED GOAL AT MIDDLESBROUGH.

Friday's budget had in it this clause:—"A good gate, a victory—if the Reds deserve it—and decent weather are my warm wishes for the Anfield brigade." At Anfield on Saturday [illegible] spectators attended—a good gate; victory went to the Reds—they deserved it, because after being 3 goals down they overpowered the cleverest club in the world; and the weather was admirable, the ground surprising everyone. At times clumps of turf were taken out by a boot, but the going was infinitely better than expected after

81
MANCHESTER UTD (MILLENNIUM STADIUM)
WON 2-0
Worthington Cup final 2 March 2003

Gerard Houllier's team went into this final as underdogs but rose to the occasion under the closed roof of the Millennium Stadium. The early exchanges were tentative but it was Liverpool who showed more enterprise and they were rewarded when Steven Gerrard's long-range effort was deflected into the net off the back of David Beckham. Man-of-the-match Jerzy Dudek pulled off a succession of vital saves before the result was put beyond doubt four minutes from time when Didi Hamann played Michael Owen through and the striker surged into the penalty area and drilled the ball home past Fabien Barthez. The old three-handled trophy was Liverpool's for a seventh time.



NEXT MONTH: PART THREE

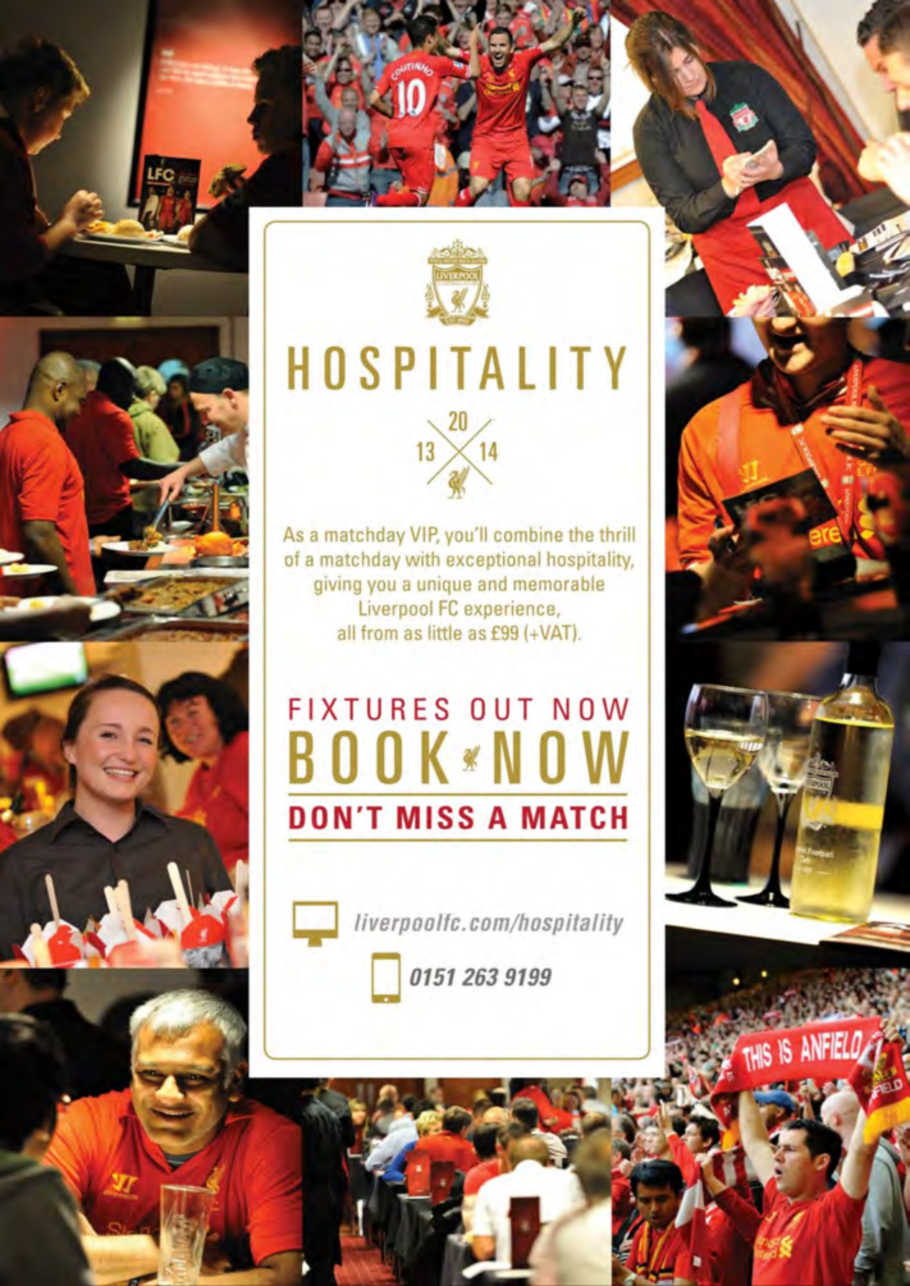

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BIG LAD'S A KOPITE

Actor and Reds fan Ewen MacIntosh starred in *The Office* but always gets star-struck at Anfield



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THIS IS ANFIELD

So you're a Liverpool supporter? *Yeah…* To what extent would you say that you were a Liverpool supporter? *What are the options?*

Not at all. To some extent. Very much so. Don't know… *Don't know.*

So much for the 'Keith' version of this interview, the one based on Ewen MacIntosh's character in *The Office* and in particular the bit where he has his tortuous appraisal with boss David Brent. Guess what? The real thing isn't a bit like his deadpan, gum-chewing alter ego. In fact get him talking about LFC and the words spool forth at hyperactive speed.

On the stadium tour that he's just been on: "It's brilliant. To be in the exact places where the players are. We sat in the dressing-room. We sat where they sit and you learn why the dressing-room is the way it is. Why Shankly decided no lockers. He didn't want anyone hiding anything from each other. Then we went out and touched the sign. *This is Anfield.* That's what I wanted. I've just texted a picture to a mate of me doing it. We walked along the side of the pitch. We sat in the dugout where the manager and everyone sits. And we sat in the Kop. You walk along and as you get to the Kop they start playing *You'll Never Walk Alone* on the speakers!"



Ewen with Scotch egg – it's an *Office* thing

And on the miracle of Istanbul: "I was sitting at home in Balham [southwest London]. At half-time I'd given up. My flatmate at the time was a Liverpool fan too. I'd turned the TV off and was sat there sulking. He went to his room to keep watching it. Suddenly I heard him screaming. I turned the TV back on and couldn't believe it. Oh my god – what's going on here? There was just something weird about that night. It was strange. It was crazy."

Ewen's Liverpool love affair began in Germany in the late 1970s. His father was in the army so he spent his childhood watching BFBS (the British Forces Broadcasting Service) whose TV channel consisted of old soaps and sitcoms plus the news…and *Match of the Day*. He asked his dad, a Greenock Morton fan from Glasgow, for a team to support.

"My dad was in the army so I grew up in Germany when I first got into Liverpool"



"He said, 'How about Liverpool?' and that was that. From then on I was a Liverpool fan and I had something to talk about with the other kids. This was around 1979, 1980, when Kenny was in his pomp."

Ewen, now 39, gave the game away late last year on the BBC's *Celebrity Mastermind*. His chosen charity was the Steven Gerrard Foundation (for the record his specialist subject was *Twin Peaks* and he came second behind comedian Simon Evans) and he's proud to say he's even had a swift half with the Liverpool skipper. It came about after a couple of invites to the annual charity ball held by the Marina Dalglish Appeal at Knowsley Hall.

"I met Kenny, Ronnie Whelan, Alan Hansen, Phil Thompson. I met Carra too. Carra was a big *Office* fan so that was a bit weird. I went over to get a photo with him and he was like 'Eh Keith! It's Keith! Is this for me?' I was like 'No Carra – it's me who wants the picture with you!'

"Then I did an episode of *Casualty* around 2006-ish and I met Neil Fitzmaurice who was also in the episode. We got chatting and talked about Liverpool – that's all we talked about really. Neil had written a film called *Charlie Noades RIP* and he

Words: David Cottrell

> **"I always say to my mate: we've scored too early, we'll never hang on to that"**

got me up to play a bouncer. It had a good cast [John Thomson, Dominic Carter, Dave Spikey, John McArdle and Suzanne Collins among them] including a guy called Paul McGrattan who is Steven Gerrard's best mate. Me and Paul became good friends and a couple of times we've been out in Liverpool with the skipper, which is just surreal."

Here in the Boot Room Sports Cafe at Anfield, with the glittering Champions League trophy within cuddling distance and a loop of delirious LFC highlights on the plasma screens all around us, if the captain strode in right now there's a good chance that Ewen would pass out. He's a proper Red alright – but what kind?

"Quiet and pessimistic. I always think the worst. It's a little running joke with my old mate Dan, the one who I watched the Champions League final with back in 2005. If we score before the 89th minute I'll go to him: 'You know what's happened here – we've scored too early, we'll never hold on to that'. I always think two-nil up is the most dangerous score because it's so easy to take your foot off the gas and think you've won. I'm never ever happy until we're at least three goals ahead and then I can relax."

What's he like at predicting scores? "Terrible! For the last couple of seasons, before the Manchester United fixture a guy who has an online United fanzine gets me to do a little interview. Part of it is to make a prediction and for the game at Anfield last month I said that we'd lose 3-1. Occasionally with the bookies I'll have a little dabble but I have a rule to never – ever – bet on Liverpool. I've got friends who do and I can't understand the mentality. It's tempting fate."

United at home, it turns out, was Ewen's first-ever game at Anfield back in the mists of time. Liverpool lost – we won't dwell – but he was also there for the second semi-final against Chelsea in the Champions League of 2007, decided on spot-kicks after Daniel Agger's goal made it 1-1 on aggregate.

"I go more to the away games down south but I get up whenever I can. Last season I went to the Everton game at Goodison when we went 2-0 up and had that last-minute goal disallowed. It was one of those seasons where the little things went against us – disallowed goals, hitting the woodwork. Like I say I'd never tempt fate, but it'd be nice to think this season things will start to go our way."

Not at all, to some extent, very much so, don't know? Only time will tell.

What are the options?





DAVID BRENT: To what extent do you believe that you have the skills and knowledge to perform your job effectively? And then you just tick one of the boxes: *Not at all. To some extent. Very much so. Don't know.* What would you tick?
KEITH BISHOP: Don't know.
BRENT: Okay. Erm. Question 2. Do you feel you have received adequate training to use your computer effectively?
KEITH: What are the options?
BRENT: Same as before. They're always the same, always the same: *Not at all. To some extent. Very much so. Don't know.*
KEITH: Don't know.
BRENT: Don't know again. Okay. Do you feel you are given the flexibility to decide how best to accomplish your goals?
KEITH: ......
BRENT: Do you want the options again?
KEITH: Yeah.
BRENT: *Not at all. To some extent. Very much so. Don't know.*
KEITH: Don't know.
BRENT: If 'Don't know' wasn't there, what would you put?
KEITH: Very much so.
BRENT: Do you remember what the question was?
KEITH: No.
BRENT: Okay. Let's... We're gonna leave that there.



1

the one and only...

Chris Lawler

The story goes that during a five-a-side match at Melwood, Bill Shankly was claiming a disputed goal. Chris Lawler, famously dubbed the 'Silent Knight' and injured at the time, was watching from the sidelines. As the debate over the goal raged, Shanks strolled over and said, "Chris, what do you think – was it a goal?" "No," came the hushed reply. "Speak up I can't hear you." "No, it wasn't." "Chris, this is the first time I've heard you speak to me and you tell a bloody lie!"

The quiet man though was strong in the challenge and phenomenal coming forward, grabbing 61 goals in his LFC career – making him the first top-flight full-back to score more than 50 times without the aid of penalties. He was there from the European Cup tie against Inter in 1965 to the UEFA Cup final against Borussia Moenchengladbach in 1973. Upon retiring as a player he also enjoyed a successful spell coaching the reserves.

Chris, who'll turn 70 on 20 October, was born in Norris Green, one of 15 children, all Liverpool supporters – "Eleven of us were boys, we could make up an entire team between us."

1. Back row second from left in the FA Cup-winning class of 1965 with Yeats, Milne, Stevenson, St John, Byrne, Lawrence, Thompson, Strong, Smith, Hunt and Callaghan.

2. Unused sub, back row third from left, in the cup side of 74, with Cormack, Toshack, Tommy Smith, Steve Heighway, Ray Clemence, Phil Thompson, Brian Hall, Ian Callaghan and, far right, what the original Getty agency caption describes as an 'unknown imposter fan'.

3. Chasing down Eintracht Frankfurt defenders in the first-round, first leg of Liverpool's triumphant UEFA Cup campaign of 1972/73. The Reds won 2-0 on the night.

4. Local lad made good.



3

2



The first top-flight full-back to score over 50 goals without penalties





LEADING

The FA WSL season has been a fabulous whirlwind, says Liverpool FC Ladies midfielder Amanda Da Costa

Most likely, by the time you read this our title-decider against Bristol will have come and gone…

Before that we had a must-win game v Everton. A rainy night did little to stop the fans from supporting us – we had an incredible turnout at Halton Stadium. A derby match always comes with a great deal of emotion, and for us it was important to play the game and not the occasion.

Everton were up for the game, and I'm sure they would've loved nothing more than to be the ones who knocked us off the top. They scored within four minutes but for some reason it didn't seem to faze me. I had complete confidence in our side and just moments later Natasha Dowie scored the first of her hat-trick on the night. She grabbed her second on the half-hour but a long-distance Everton lob sent both teams into the locker-room at two apiece.

Our mood remained positive and in the second half in heavy rain Gemma Bonner netted and Tash scored her third. Winning always feels good, but winning a derby feels better!

Before the game we'd packed into the press box at the stadium to do our pre-game analysis. Donna, our 'master of video', had put together a clip of highlights from the season, and in the background she played Al Pacino's speech from the movie *Any Given Sunday*. In it he speaks to his American football team on the subject of life being all about inches – and how, similarly, football was a game of inches.

I want to focus first on this idea of inches and what this really meant to my team. Liverpool FC Ladies were a brand new group of women thrown into pre-season together in January, playing together for the first time under a new manager. To sum it up: we were a group of total strangers wondering what we'd gotten ourselves into. Each day, however,



we continued to grow together – inch by inch – with our styles of play and personalities intertwining the longer we spent together.

We became known for training 'full time' – a concept normal for me in America but newer for the FA WSL. While players from other sides spent much of the week apart, we took advantage of the chance we had to play together as much as possible.

Now I fully understand how we were able to get to this position. Our hard work and determination on the pitch is a direct result of the hours of extra work we put in leading up to every match. We made the most of our inches when other teams had their feet up.

Football is a game of inches, and my life is as well! Comparing inches to time, I just don't seem to have enough of it lately. Everything has moved so fast since I came here – it's hard to believe that I've been living in another country for almost 10 months. When I was preparing for my transatlantic move and putting myself through a 'pre-pre-season', the date of my departure really snuck up on me. Since the day I arrived, time showed no signs of slowing down and I can't even wrap my head around everything that has happened to me.

In summation: I've gotten the chance to play alongside and against some unbelievably talented players; we trained at Melwood with the LFC first-team squad; I witnessed Fara Williams break a light at our ESPN photo-shoot; and I have countless memories of laughter with my new friends.

I have seen cities I'd never ventured to; had the opportunity to play on amazing pitches; and been blessed to have people visit me all the way from the United States. When I take a second to slow things down, my year in review is filled with experiences I'd never have had if I hadn't taken a gamble on living in a new country.

My time in Liverpool is inching away. While I am excited to get to be home with my family and friends, I'm still fully aware that our team has a job to finish. Winning a title was one of the driving forces behind me deciding to move my life across the ocean – and I don't plan on leaving without raising the trophy.









Das entertainment

Nicole Rolser (left in pic) and Corina Schroder have played key roles in the success of Liverpool FC Ladies in the FA Women's Super League

The year 2013 has been a momentous one all round for German football. Back in May of course the nation supplied both UEFA Champions League finalists at Wembley – Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund – and Bayern's subsequent appointment of former Barca man Pep Guardiola as coach has seen a surge of interest in the new Bundesliga season.

But Germany's dominance of the European football scene is not limited to the men's game – it's also been a golden era for the women.

The national team, fabulously named *Fußballnationalmannschaft der Frauen*, triumphed at this summer's European Championships in Sweden while in May Wolfsburg won the women's equivalent of the Champions League

> **"Before I joined the team I asked Nici about Liverpool and she said I'd like it"**

by beating Lyon at Stamford Bridge – cheered on by a number of Bayern Munich and Borussia supporters in London for the men's final the following Saturday.

Liverpool FC Ladies' successful side has also had a strong Germanic influence. Full-back Corina Schroder, nicknamed Coco, and winger Nicole Rolser, aka Nici, have been two of the stars of the team that has been challenging for the FA Women's Super League title. The pair have formed a key link-up down the left following their arrivals at the start of the season.

Nicole put pen to paper on a deal with the Reds in November before Corina signed in February. The duo already knew each other well having previously been team-mates at SC 07 Bad Neuenahr, a successful ladies team based in Rhineland-Palatinate.

So what do they feel lies behind the current successes in the German game? Corina says: "I think German players are really professional, so they think in a professional way and do everything in a really professional way. That's the big thing. I won the Women's Champions League with Potsdam in 2011 and during the pre-season we trained three times a day. That was really hard but you know beforehand that if you play in those kind of teams, it is going to be hard work. I'm sure that is one of the key reasons why they are successful."

Nicole agrees that the high standard of players means the league is always getting stronger. "I think Germany is one of the best leagues in the world and we have good players and when you play with good players that always helps you improve too.

"Pep Guardiola's arrival at Bayern Munich has naturally seen a lot of interest because he did so well at Barcelona. It will be hard for him because last year they won all the trophies under Jupp Heynckes but I think Guardiola's a good coach and I'm sure he will do a good job."

Nicole, who originally hails from Ochsenhausen in the south of the country, has always been a Bayern supporter. "I live between Stuttgart and Munich but I've always been a Bayern fan," she says.

"We wanted to go to the Champions League final at Wembley back in May but we couldn't get tickets!" adds Corina, whose team of choice is Schalke 04.

One thing about the ladies game in England that has surprised both is the level of media interest.



Celebrating another goal for the girls



"I've heard that there has been more attention this year than ever before and people are now talking about the women's league," says Corina. "It's good that the interest should grow. Before major events in Germany there is a lot of interest from the newspapers but generally it is maybe not so high."

The duo settled quickly into life at Liverpool and share a house in the Penny Lane area of the city.

"Apart from the language it isn't too different. I like Liverpool and have enjoyed playing with this team," says Nicole. Corina adds: "I came over later in February. When I learned of Liverpool's offer I asked Nici everything – how was the city, how was the team? She said to me, 'Oh you will like it', so I thought okay, I will come over.'"

The duo now speak perfect English and have been delighted to play their part in what has been a very cosmopolitan Liverpool line-up.

Alongside a core of English players, Matt Beard's team regularly includes a couple of Americans, an Icelandic international, a Swede and a New Zealander.

Corina says: "For me, it doesn't

matter if the players come from Iceland or England but the types of players have been really good and it has helped us have a very strong team."

"I like it," adds Nicole. "It's good having people from different countries because it helps us learn about different cultures."

Learning is something Nicole is keen to do. Still only 21, she is currently combining her football with study on a distance learning course for a qualification in business administration.

"It is linked to a university in Germany. They send me the books and I take exams here in Liverpool. It isn't always easy to study but I think I am quite focused."

Since the start of the season, the Liverpool FC Ladies focus has been on achieving the top-two finish that will earn qualification for the 2014/15 UEFA Women's Champions League.

Indeed at the time this magazine went to press, the Reds went into their final game against Bristol Academy knowing a draw or a win would secure the club's first FA Women's Super League title.

"At the start of the season we were a brand new team but we gelled so quickly"

Corina and Nicole have both played for Germany at youth level but not yet the senior team. "It's hard because there are so many good players but I'm not sure whether the coach Silvia Neid has seen any of our games for Liverpool," says Corina.



"At the start of the season I didn't think we would do so well as we have because we are a new team," explains Nicole, who has scored 10 league goals from the wing. "I thought maybe it would be in the second year that we would be better. But I'm impressed that we have gelled quickly and we have done so well. Matt [Beard] has done a good job in assembling all the different types of players and we have a good team. For the first year our targets were to finish in the top two but if you ask me whether we want to win the league, I won't say no!"

Corina adds: "Winning the league is really hard. Because it's so small [with 10 teams] we have to win every game and that makes it tough. The standard is similar too. You can lose to Arsenal but just as easily lose to Doncaster too. It's been a tight league which makes it hard work for us but it's also exciting."

Corina has plenty of Champions League experience, figuring in three finals already. She says that playing in the tournament is something Liverpool Ladies will enjoy experiencing at the back end of next season. Her former club Turbine Potsdam won the 2010 tournament by beating Lyon in the final in Getafe [in Spain] while in 2011 the same clubs contested the final again with the French side this time exacting revenge following a 2-0 win at Fulham's Craven Cottage. Corina was also in the Duisburg squad that defeated Russians Zvezda Perm over two legs to triumph in 2009.

She says: "It's an exciting competition and I really would love to play in it for Liverpool against Potsdam. That would be great."



Schroder keeps the Reds on course for glory

FAWSL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool Ladies	13	11	0	2	44	19	33
Bristol Academy	13	10	1	2	30	18	31
Arsenal Ladies	13	9	3	1	29	10	27*
Everton Ladies	13	4	3	6	22	28	15
Birmingham City	13	4	3	6	13	21	15
Chelsea Ladies	13	3	1	9	20	25	10
Lincoln Ladies	13	1	4	8	8	15	7
Doncaster Rrs B	13	1	3	9	9	39	6

Table correct up to 15.09.13 *Arsenal deducted 3 pts for fielding an ineligible player


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BRENDAN RODGERS DESCRIBES HIM AS 'SUPER QUICK AND POWERFUL'. AS ONE OF PORTUGAL'S HOTTEST PROSPECTS HE'S ALREADY LIT UP ANFIELD IN AN AWESOME YOUNG SPORTING TEAM – AND NOW HE'S A LIVERPOOL PLAYER. SO LET'S GET TO KNOW TIAGO ILORI

It is more than two years since Tiago Ilori made his Anfield debut. The central defender ran out in front of the Kop in August 2011 when Liverpool played their first fixture in the fledgling NextGen Series, a tournament designed to expose the best young talent to European competition.

Ilori finished that evening on a winning Sporting Lisbon side described by LFC Academy director Frank McParland as the best in that season's tournament. Alongside Tiago in the team which recorded a 3-0 victory was Joao Carlos Teixeira, now a member of the Reds' Under 21s squad. Of the Liverpool side that faced them, six have since pulled on the red shirt in a first-team fixture.

Now however Ilori's immediate ambition is to feature alongside Raheem Sterling, Andre Wisdom and company in front of a full house for Liverpool…

Interview: William Hughes

Tell us a bit about your childhood...

I grew up in London and lived in a few places around Kentish Town. My father is English and my mother Portuguese. My English family are originally from Manchester and they all moved to London. My dad was born in London too. The family moved to Portugal when I was eight and I studied in an international (English) school. My dad opened a restaurant in the Algarve. He was a keen follower of football and always encouraged me to play.

You were always interested in football from a young age...

I think it's something that is ingrained in me and I knew all about Liverpool from a young age. As I say, my father is a very big football fan. Who does he support? Manchester United. That's probably not a very good answer for the Liverpool magazine but it's the truth! But although he may be a Man United fan he just wants me to play for a great team. He's delighted about my move – he told me a long time ago to come to the Premier League if I ever got the chance. That was his advice. He came over with me for a few days when I signed. He even saw Liverpool beat United!



You started your football career at Imortal in Albufeira (in the Algarve)...

I joined them when I was 11 and played there for two years and then I went to Sporting. I would go to Lisbon for a weekend because I was just 12 years old. I would train with my local team and then on the weekend go and play with Sporting.

Was the football culture different in Portugal?

A little, in as much as we didn't start playing 11-a-side matches until we were 13. Before then it was seven-a-side. At that age I don't think you cover enough ground to play 11-a-side football. I remember that when I started playing 11-a-side we had difficulty in the first year because we had to adapt. When we were so young I always felt that there was too much space to play 11-a-side.

Were you a defender growing up?

No, not at all. When I went to Imortal we played seven-a-side and didn't really have a fixed position but I tended to play more upfront and used to score quite a lot of goals. In the end I played in midfield, then defensive midfield. After a while the coach thought I could play centre-back so I moved back there. I've gradually moved backwards!

You also had a loan spell at Estoril (near Lisbon) for a year...

I think that was good for me. I was 14 or 15 when I went there and it was a good experience. It kept my feet on the ground and definitely helped me when I went back to Sporting.

"It was about whether the time was right to move – and I'm very happy to be here"

When you played at Anfield with Sporting you were coached by Ricardo Sa Pinto who then took charge of the senior team...

Sa Pinto was a great coach. He had a big influence on the kind of football our Under 19s played. We did really well in that tournament two years ago but I didn't have the chance to know him for long. I met him, he was our coach for around six months, but then he went to the first team. We managed to win our domestic league that year but in the NextGen we lost against Inter Milan in the quarter-final which wasn't what we had hoped for.

You struck up a good friendship with Joao Carlos Teixeira while you were at Sporting...

We've been friends for a long time. I contacted him when I learned of Liverpool's interest but he also contacted me because he'd found out about it too. Having him around made it easier to adapt – I definitely felt more comfortable than if I hadn't known anybody. He helped me look for apartments and so on before he went on loan to Brentford. It's also a help to speak English – there's no problem with that! Back in Portugal everyone I know speaks Portuguese and obviously my family speaks Portuguese as well on my mum's side, but during the last few years I have only spoken to my dad in English.

Was it a tough decision to leave Sporting?

It wasn't a difficult choice as I think every player wants to come to the Premier League in England, and to such a big club as Liverpool was a great opportunity. It was more a case of deciding whether it was the right time to make that step. But I've definitely made the right decision and I'm very happy to be here.

How do you feel about the competition in central defence with Sakho, Agger, Toure, Skrtel, Wisdom and Coates?

There is competition but I'm looking forward to training with these players and learning from them all. Mamadou and I came over to Liverpool on the same plane – he travelled from France and I came from Portugal. We had a chance to talk as he can speak enough English to hold a conversation and it was good to meet him. I'm just going to do my best to try and adapt and if I can start playing that would be great. I would love to, of course, but I don't know what's going to happen. What I do know is that I'm definitely looking forward to the challenge.


Training at Melwood with Philippe Coutinho





Bowing out for Sporting in April earlier this year

Along with Suso, Conor Coady and Jon Flanagan, you played in the recent World Under 20s Championships...
We felt a bit disappointed leaving so early [Portugal lost to Ghana in the Round of 16] having topped our group in the first phase, but it was a nice tournament to play in. We would've liked to have progressed further and personally I would've liked to have played better because in my opinion I didn't have the best tournament. But I believe my generation of Portuguese footballers has some very good players within it and if they have the chance I think they can do very well.

"I was at Anfield for the win over United – a great crowd and excellent result"

Would you play for England like your old Sporting Lisbon team-mate Eric Dier?
To be honest I'd like to carry on playing for Portugal. I don't want to close any doors and you never say never, but since I've played for Portugal so many times I know everyone in the set-up and if possible I'd like to continue.

How would you describe your style?
I can be aggressive when I need to be but that's not the main part of my game. I think I'm relatively quick. I like to come out with the ball and try to build play from the back. I also like to go forward for set-plays.

Did Brendan Rodgers impress you when he spoke about his plans?
Yes he did. I'm only 20 years old and everyone used to tell us when you get to a certain level, the coaches don't talk to you as much. But already I've found that it's the opposite here. He's tried to help us all.

Which players do you admire?
You tend to look at your own position and I was always told about Franz Beckenbauer and saw lots of videos of him while I was growing up. I also like Rio Ferdinand a lot as a centre-back. So I would say those two. I respect all defenders who have been able to have some success in the game but I would love to play like Beckenbauer.

You've spoken about Jamie Carragher...
I admired him as a player. We're different – he's done everything in the game and I've done nothing yet, but also in terms of the way I play and the way he played. We're different but I respect him enormously for what he's done for Liverpool Football Club.

What did you think of the game against Manchester United?
It was amazing. It was a great crowd and an excellent result, so it was a good first match for me to see at Anfield. Even when I played here a couple of years ago with Sporting there was a decent crowd and I'd love to play here in front of a full stadium.

Your hopes for the team this season?
Watching the team it is evident that they have a plan. I'm sure everyone would prefer it if there was some European competition this year, but maybe it will be good to concentrate on the Premier League, try and do better and next year go not to the Europa League but the Champions League. The way the team wants to play football is clear and that's important in any good side.


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Neil MELLOR

At Under 21 level moments of pure genius must be matched with sheer hard work and first-rate attitude

Results and performances are important but in the youth team and up to Under 21 level perhaps a better measure of a player's development is how he reacts to situations, both good and bad.

I was co-commentating during the Liverpool Under 21s' 2-0 victory over Manchester City last month. There were two important moments for me. Adam Morgan's opening goal from 45 yards was spectacular. It reminded me a lot of Matt Le Tissier's effort for Southampton at Blackburn many years ago. It wasn't lofted from such a long way out – he really hit it hard and didn't just hope. The ball was struck with such conviction that he must have thought there was a really good chance of it going in. It was a striker's instinct – a natural thing to attempt.

I remember scoring one of the best goals in my career during a reserve game. It was against West Brom at the Racecourse Ground in Wrexham. Without giving you a blow-by-blow account, a corner came across and standing out wide at the far post I volleyed it like Marco van Basten in the Euro 88 final against the USSR. It flew in the far corner.

Only a handful of people witnessed that goal. The lads in the dressing-room talked about it then quickly there was another match to look forward to. There was no post-match interview, no TV cameras recording it, and few supporters complimenting me.

Today football is very different. Within 10 minutes of Adam's goal hitting the back of the net, it was on YouTube for the world to see. No doubt he probably received thousands of messages on Twitter commenting on its brilliance.

While it's nice to receive compliments it's important to appreciate that in the grand scheme of things it means very little. I'd hope Adam would exchange a dozen of those goals in the Under 21 team for a tap-in during a competitive match for the first team.

That will only happen of course if he continues to work hard in training and reproduce the kind of form shown against City on a regular basis. Without having to deal with any extra attention, I was able to do that. A few months after my van Basten effort, I scored an injury-time winner for Liverpool against Arsenal in front of the Kop.



Adam Morgan's wonder goal v City

> **"How a young player reacts to good and bad situations is so important"**

Becoming a recognisable young footballer is not easy. The pressure is undeniably greater now. Jordan Rossiter is another player going through this process. The midfielder is 16 and playing regularly for the Under 21 team. In the win at City he did okay – but his performance probably wasn't quite to the standard he'd set before. Despite that, his attitude was right. He showed important character traits.

There was an incident when Ryan McLaughlin was injured near the touchline. The referee stopped the game and a few players were having a drink. City were one-nil behind and Patrick Vieira, their elite development squad manager – and one of the greatest players in the Premier League era – said to the referee: "Are we having a chat here or getting on with the game?" Jordan was five yards away and replied: "Relax – Ryan's still on the pitch."

The instinctive reply made me laugh – typical of a Scouse lad. He didn't mean to be cheeky or disrespectful. He was just looking out for his team-mate. Vieira was rattled by the calmness of Jordan's manner, not in keeping with an average 16-year-old in dialogue with a World Cup winner.

It took Vieira half-a-minute or so to think of something to say. He was stewing: "Hey hey…no8…" By then Jordan was focused on organising. To me, that showed personality. As a young player you need to have the confidence to address something if you think it's not right. It was the right attitude to have – and attitude is just as important as ability.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33

STORY OF A



The significance

Defeat by Arsenal in the 1971 FA Cup final meant the Reds had gone five years without silverware. But the board's faith in Bill Shankly was displayed when he signed a new three-year deal in July – his last for LFC. At the time of Shanks putting pen to paper the name Kevin Keegan would've meant very little to the fans. That changed when he scored just 12 minutes into Liverpool's first league game, a 3-1 win over Nottingham Forest. Signed from Scunthorpe United for £33,000, he would go on to form a strike partnership with John Toshack that propelled the club to both domestic and continental success.

The league season

Highlights included a 4-0 win derby win over Everton at Anfield, and a 3-0 victory at Manchester United. But the league title agonisingly eluded the Reds. Languishing in 10th in February, a barnstorming run-in of 12 wins from 15 games meant they finished level with second-placed Leeds and fourth-placed Man City, all divided by goal average. Just above the trio by a solitary point were Brian Clough's unfancied Derby. The Rams had concluded their campaign earlier and needed results to go their way to be crowned champions. It happened when Leeds lost to Wolves and Liverpool could only manage a scoreless draw at Arsenal, with a late Toshack goal disallowed.


Victorious Derby boss Brian Clough with sidekick Peter Taylor


Larry Lloyd against Manchester United

In the cups

Having beaten Swiss side Servette in the first round of the European Cup Winners' Cup, the Reds were drawn against Bayern Munich. The Bavarians, who would go to win the European Cup three times over the course of the decade, proved too strong over two legs but in turn lost to Glasgow Rangers in the semi-finals.

Liverpool's hopes of an immediate return to Wembley in the FA Cup final were dashed in a fourth-round replay at Leeds – despite the backing of 10,000 travelling fans. In the League Cup they exited at the same stage, beaten 2-1 at West Ham.

Same league

Nine of the 22 sides in the 1971/72 First Division table, including the top two, currently reside outside England's top flight. Coventry City, Sheffield United and Wolves have fallen furthest, with all three beginning 2013/14 in League One.

The tactics

Upfront Toshack and Keegan thrived on the service provided by Brian Hall and Steve Heighway on the flanks, with Emlyn Hughes making incisive bursts forward from midfield. A formidable central defence consisting of Tommy Smith and Larry Lloyd frightened even the country's best marksmen.



SEASON

In Keegan's first season the Reds put FA Cup final defeat behind them to build for the future





	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Derby County	42	24	10	8	69	33	58
2	Leeds United	42	24	9	9	63	31	57
3	**Liverpool**	**42**	**24**	**9**	**9**	**64**	**30**	**57**
4	Manchester City	42	23	11	8	77	45	57
5	Arsenal	42	22	8	12	58	40	52
6	Tottenham H	42	19	13	10	63	42	51
7	Chelsea	42	18	12	12	58	49	48
8	Manchester Utd	42	19	10	13	69	61	48
9	Wolverhampton W	42	18	11	13	65	57	47
10	Sheffield Utd	42	17	12	13	61	60	46
11	Newcastle Utd	42	15	11	16	49	62	41
12	Leicester City	42	13	13	16	41	46	39
13	Ipswich Town	42	11	16	15	39	53	38
14	West Ham Utd	42	12	12	18	47	51	36
15	Everton	42	9	18	15	59	48	36
16	WBA	42	12	11	19	42	44	35
17	Stoke City	42	11	15	17	39	56	35
18	Coventry City	42	9	15	18	44	67	33
19	Southampton	42	12	7	23	52	80	31
20	Crystal Palace	42	8	13	21	39	65	29
21	Nottingham Forest	42	8	9	25	47	81	25
22	Huddersfield Town	42	6	13	23	27	59	25

NEW ON THE SCENE

Kevin Keegan

An impressive display in a pre-season practice game at Melwood earned him a place in the first team and he went on to become a vital part of the side until 1977. This is how the Liverpool Echo described his display in a 5-0 win at Newcastle: 'With the litheness of a contortionist he twisted one way and another several times, with the ball bobbing between his feet, while [his marker] Bobby Moncur hopped from one foot to another like someone jumping into the bath when the water is too hot, until he was knotted as adeptly as if a boy scout had roped him up'.

Frank Lane

The Wallasey-born goalkeeper joined from Tranmere but Clem's form meant the understudy only made two appearances in three years. During one of those, against Derby, he caught the ball before unfortunately walking backwards over his own line.


All hail King Keegan

LAST CHANCE TO SEE

Tommy Lawrence

With young Ray Clemence the new no1, Tommy left in November 1971 to join Tranmere Rovers – by then he'd made 390 appearances and won both the League and FA Cup.


Goodbye Bobby Graham

Ian Ross

The Glaswegian centre-back's final season on Merseyside was his most productive – filling in for injured colleagues brought him 31 appearances overall. But when he was dropped by Bill Shankly he became open to a switch and moved on to Aston Villa.

Bobby Graham

The striker had marked his league debut back in 1964 by scoring a hat-trick. A broken leg, combined with the arrival of Toshack and then Keegan, meant Bobby was unable to build on that bright beginning. In March 1972 he joined Coventry.

Alun Evans

Britain's most expensive teenager when Shankly signed him for £100,000 in 1968, he struck 33 goals in 111 games but consistency eluded him and resulted in a transfer to Aston Villa.

Love supreme

A new series profiling the world's leading Liverpool FC experts

ADRIAN KILLEN SCRAPBOOKS

I'm a born and bred Scouser, having been a season-ticket holder since they introduced them for the Kop in 1967. I worked as a lithographic printer then at the Anfield museum and tour centre until retirement.

Having grown up a 20-minute walk from both Anfield and Goodison it was inevitable that I should support one team or the other. My mother, father and brother were all Reds, as were my grandmother and grandfather who lived two doors away, so I suppose you could say I was indoctrinated at an early age. My very first game was the 1950 FA Cup final, sat on my grandmother's knee.

History was my favourite subject at school and is still a passion of mine, which helps to explain why the history of the club is part of my support as a fan. My dad kept newspaper cutting and cigarette cards, my grandmother kept programmes and ticket stubs, and my elder brother kept a large factory-made scrapbook that was a Christmas present for him just after the war. This book was always full of football cuttings and I remember making my first entry in that book from the souvenir newspaper produced in January 1955 for the FA cup clash between Everton and Liverpool.

This in turn put me on the way to compiling scrapbooks of every game Liverpool played – and to this day I still collect every match report and photograph of the game. Every







collector has a niche, and mine is compiling the match reports in semi-professional scrapbooks as well as collecting images and film of every game.

In the early 1960s my brother bought a cine camera and filmed quite a few games in colour. I continued with a cine camera of my own, then bought a video recorder and camera in 1979, and from then on I've kept a copy of every Liverpool game that has been transmitted on TV until present day as well as filming video of numerous live games in the last three decades.

My most treasured item is the match ball from the 1932 FA Cup tie between Everton and Liverpool. To think that the great Dixie Dean scored in the first minute so that arguably Elisha Scott's very first touch was to pick it

"Every collector has a niche and mine is compiling match reports in semi-pro scrapbooks"

out of the net is spine-tingling – not to mention the fact that Liverpool's record goalscorer at that time, Gordon Hodgson, also scored with that ball.

I have been very lucky to have worked at the Anfield museum for six years and been able to handle everything at close quarters, including trying on Kenny Dalglish's bench coat as well as Bill Shankly's blazer. But the most iconic thing that I would wish to own would be David Fairclough's St Etienne shirt from 1977 which is signed by all the team from that most famous of games and is on permanent display in the museum.

You can see from the photograph here on the left that it takes quite some room to store all the collection: a large bookshelf downstairs, a large floor-to-ceiling cupboard in one of the bedrooms, and the bulk of the collection in a room built into the loft space. As a collector some people think you're a bit quirky and label you an 'anorak' but to my family it's something they've grown up with – and they know not to write or spill anything on my collection – or else!

ERIC DOIG STATISTICS

I'm a retired medical scientist, aged 82. I was born within the sound of the Spion Kop on Wylva Road – three roads from the ground (including the old Kemlyn Road). From the age of nine I lived within 50 yards of the Kop in Walton Breck Road.

Why Liverpool Football Club? Well obviously the city is my place of birth but there is also the family association with my grandfather JE 'Ned' Doig who was a former Liverpool FC goalkeeper [Eric's research in this field was featured in Issue 5 of the magazine, January 2013]. I always had an interest in my grandfather's games, and after retiring I researched reserve games. Since making contact with [fellow LFC statistician] Jonny Stokkeland over 20 years ago we have been working jointly on all aspects of LFC history, not just results.

I am not a particularly big collector of memorabilia – my speciality is LFC databases – but my most treasured item is a Scottish international medal and shirt badge. The things I'd most like to track down are the 1905 Second Division championship and 1906 First Division Championship medals won by Ned Doig with LFC.





KEITH STANTON PROGRAMMES

I was born in 1949 and would've been six or seven when my father began taking me to reserve-team then first-team matches at Anfield. He was a lifelong Red despite living just four streets away from Everton's ground. In those days under the Main Stand was a big cage into which unsold copies of match programmes were thrown. You had to sneak in to grab a handful and the ground staff always chased you.

When my father attended a 1956 FA Cup tie at Scunthorpe United and brought back the programme, I started to consciously build a collection. My own first away match was Huddersfield Town in 1958. The 1962/63 season, back in the First Division, opened with a match against Blackpool who fielded Alan Ball. I was heavily into collecting programmes by then, helped by stock bought in a programme shop opposite Everton's ground which was a real treasure trove. There were old programmes going back to the 1940s and 50s on sale for 1d and 2d. Programmes were so cheap then that we tended to swap them via the exchange adverts in *Soccer Star* and *Charles Buchan's Football Monthly*.

The 1965 FA Cup final programme is probably one of my most prized. I managed to get it fully autographed by all the Liverpool players, and together with the match ticket it holds pride of place in my collection.

European away programmes are the most interesting and expensive. The Petrolul Ploesti away programme of 1966/67 is very rare – I've only seen it once and never owned it. The copy I saw was obtained via a butcher's shop in Liverpool where I believe one of the directors used to shop and hand in programmes from his travels. It had a match ticket inserted, further enhancing this rarest of Liverpool items. Another very rare programme is from the 1976 European Cup match in Trabzonspor, Turkey. A handful of supporters made the journey and I'm led to believe only about 12 programmes were brought back.

"European away programmes are the most interesting and rare"

In contrast over recent years pirate programmes have appeared for some European away ties. I believe for a match in Kiev where Liverpool played Dynamo Kiev, at least 24 different versions were produced!

The New Liverpool Programme Collectors Club was formed in 1986 for everyone interested in LFC programmes and memorabilia. We publish a 28-page bulletin four times a season together with a special pre-season issue. We have 200 members from all over the world.



I've followed Liverpool from the age of 12, starting in the old boys' pen then the Kop. I began collecting cigarette cards as a lad. We'd hope the smoker had left the card inside the packet and it was a footballer. These cards would be traded and formed into teams similar to today's fantasy football. Many years later I caught the bug again and have collected Liverpool players ever since. I believe there are about 331 cards depicting Liverpool players.

My most treasured item is a card of Laurie Hughes who played for Liverpool from 1943 to 1960. He was the first LFC player to represent England at a World Cup (in Brazil) and his image was printed on the back of the inside sleeve issued by Turf cigarettes in 1951. I visited Laurie at his home in Crosby in 2011 and we spent hours looking at my collection and talking about the players he knew. He then signed the front of his card.

For me the 'holy grail' has to be a card issued by Field Favorites cigarettes. It's thought to be the earliest showing a British footballer and depicts D McLean of Liverpool FC issued in

"My treasured item is a card depicting Laurie Hughes, who signed it for me in 2011"

1892/93. The photo was taken by Hinchcliffe studios in Cazeneau Street, Liverpool [between Scotland Road and Great Homer Street]. In 1892 Everton left Anfield but McLean, together with several players, stayed to form the new Liverpool team of John Houlding. Only one of these cards has been found.

My collection is housed in albums with pages made from non-harmful plasticiser. The front and back can be viewed and the cards removed easily. Most of my friends are either card collectors or football fans so my collection is always a talking point. My son and son-in-law are also keen collectors but concentrate on modern trade cards such as Panini.



GEORGE ROWLANDS
CIGARETTE CARDS

MEET MORE LFC SCHOLARS IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE



Parism

Sixteen years on from Liverpool's only tie against France's capital club what became of Les Parisiens?



It was five-past-nine on a crisp spring night at Anfield in April 1997 when Mark Wright gave the Reds hope of reaching the European Cup Winners' Cup final.

Liverpool had never won the tournament and after a 3-0 defeat to Paris St Germain in the first leg of their 1996/97 semi at the Parc des Princes, hopes of changing that statistic seemed slim. Yet the majority in an Anfield crowd of 39,000 were filled with hope when Robbie Fowler fired in his 31st goal of the season. And when Wright headed past keeper Bernard Lama with 11 minutes left on the clock, French hearts were fluttering.

Liverpool had never overturned a three-goal deficit in Europe but they almost levelled the aggregate scores in the closing minutes through David James who was sent forward as Liverpool won a last-gasp corner. When James met Mark Kennedy's kick with a header, his opposite number Lama looked on anxiously. But to Lama's relief and Kopite frustration, the effort looped over the bar.

After the game PSG boss Ricardo Gomes told journalists: "The last 10 minutes of the game were the longest and most difficult of my life. I was always looking at my watch. The ball was often in the air and anything could have happened. I wasn't surprised at Liverpool but I was surprised that they played four players in attack. They played very well and were very strong."

Facing PSG in the Rotterdam final would be Barcelona, who'd beaten Fiorentina – Gabriel Batistuta and all – in their own semi-final.

atch



A three-goal deficit would have to be overturned

PAUL LE GUEN

PSG were the holders (they'd beaten Rapid Vienna 1-0 in Brussels in the previous season's final) with defender Le Guen in that winning team. After seven years at the club he embarked on a managerial career with Rennes. He then won three league titles in as many years with Lyon ahead of a spell at Rangers. He took over as PSG boss in 2007, winning the French League Cup. Next was a move into national-team management with Cameroon and he is now in charge of Oman.





Leonardo with PSG new boy Zlatan Ibrahimovic

JIMMY ALGERINO
A defender who enjoyed five seasons with PSG during which time he won two French League Cups. He left in 2001 to play in Italy with Venezia before returning to play in the French lower leagues.

VINCENT GUERIN
French international midfielder who was at the club between 1992 and 1998. He then moved to Scotland for a brief spell at Hearts. Now manager of PSG's reserves.

RICARDO GOMES (COACH)
Brazilian centre-back who'd spent four years as a player with PSG in the early Nineties, he took charge of the team in 1996. Gomes spent two years as boss before managing back in Brazil where he suffered a stroke in 2011. He returned to the game last November as technical director of Vasco da Gama.

BERNARD LAMA
A member of the French squad that won the World Cup in 1998 and Euro 2000, goalkeeper Lama spent five years with PSG, helping them to the Ligue 1 title in 1994 and two French League Cups and the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1996. Soon after this match at Anfield he joined West Ham for a season before returning to PSG for a second spell. Had a short spell as coach of Kenya in 2006.



Bernard Lama

LAURENT FOURNIER
Midfielder who later managed the club. Has most recently coached Strasbourg and Auxerre.

BRUNO N'GOTTY
Powerful defender whose goal won PSG the 1996 Cup Winners' Cup. Later had spells with Bolton, Birmingham, Leicester and Hereford.

PSG were only formed in 1970 as the French capital dreamed of football glory

BENOIT CAUET
A scorer in the 3-0 first-leg victory over Liverpool at the Parc des Princes, the midfielder moved to Inter Milan in 1997 and later appeared for Torino and Como. Now a coach in Inter's youth set-up.

JEROME LEROY
Attacking midfielder who had two spells at Paris St Germain. He ended his playing career in 2012 at Evian. He scored PSG's decisive third goal in the first leg.

RAI
PSG's captain, the midfielder scored 51 goals in 145 league games and was also capped 51 times by Brazil.

PATRICE LOKO
A much-travelled striker who won several trophies with PSG. Capped 26 times by France, he was top scorer in Ligue 1 while at Nantes in 1994/95.

LEONARDO
A product of Brazilian club Flamengo and a 1994 World Cup winner with his country, he arrived from Kashima Antlers and spent one season with PSG. He returned to the French club as director of football in 2011, leaving the post in August. Scored PSG's opener against the Reds in the Parc des Princes.

CYRILLE POUGET
Striker who also appeared for FC Metz, Servette, Marseille and St Etienne. Won three full caps for France.

DANIEL KENEDY
Former Benfica wing-back and Portuguese U21 international who ended his career in 2011/12 with Greek side Peramaikos.

THE ECWC
This was the only European trophy to elude LFC. The club's proud roll of honour includes five European Cups, three UEFA Cups and three European Super Cups but the Cup Winners' Cup – contested between 1960 and 1999 – never came to Anfield.

There were near misses of course. As well as this narrow 3-2 aggregate defeat to PSG, it could have been the very first piece of continental silverware to find its way into the trophy room. Liverpool's historic FA Cup success against Leeds United in 1965 earned them a place in the tournament the following season. Bill Shankly's men overcame Juventus, Standard Liege, Honved and Celtic to reach the final against Borussia Dortmund. Played at Hampden Park, the match was settled by an own-goal from Reds captain Ron Yeats in extra-time.



Macca in the first leg, Razor in the house

PARIS ST GERMAIN

PSG were unable to defend their trophy in a close Rotterdam final against Bobby Robson's Barcelona, who included Pep Guardiola, Luis Figo, Luis Enrique and Ronaldo – who won it with a penalty.

By that time PSG were still only 27 years old, having been formed in 1970 following a merger between Paris FC and Stade Saint-Germain, the public wanting to see a team representing the French capital doing well. It wasn't until 1986 that they won their first top-flight title but the Nineties proved a particularly fruitful period after the club was bought by TV company Canal+.

As well as reaching two ECWC finals they also qualified for the last four of the Champions League and the UEFA Cup (twice). The decade also brought one title and three French Cups.

The 2000s were less successful but in 2011 Qatar Investment Authority became the majority shareholder. Now one of the richest clubs in the world, PSG assembled the most expensive team in French football history for the 2011/12 campaign after recruiting a host of star names.



Surprisingly pipped to the title by little-fancied Montpellier, they responded by splashing out a further €146 m on Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Thiago Silva, Lucas Moura and Ezequiel Lavezzi as coach Carlo Ancelotti guided the team to their first Ligue 1 title since 1994. New Liverpool defender Mamadou Sakho made 27 appearances.

Ancelotti moved to Real Madrid in June and was replaced by Laurent Blanc. A concerted bid to win the Champions League is next on the agenda although PSG's domestic powerbase is being challenged by fellow big-spenders Monaco. Even so, PSG spent another €113.3 million in the summer on Napoli striker Edinson Cavani, Lille left-back Lucas Digne and Roma centre-back Marquinhos.

AND FOR LIVERPOOL

David James: the BT Sport pundit spent last season at Bournemouth before joining Icelandic side IBV.
Jason McAteer: still represents Liverpool in Masters football and also appears on LFC TV.
Neil Ruddock: has appeared on TV including Celebrity Big Brother.
Mark Wright: skipper on the night, he moved into management with Chester City and Maltese club Floriana.
Stig Inge Bjornebye: youth coaching in Norway after spells as boss of IK Start and assistant in the national team.
Jamie Redknapp: the ex-captain is now part of the Sky Sports line-up
Michael Thomas: still appears for the Liverpool Masters team and runs his own home security service.
Patrik Berger: attacking midfielder who retired in 2010 beset by injuries.Steve McManaman: another ex-Red now working for BT Sport.
Stan Collymore: now with talkSPORT
Robbie Fowler: built a property empire and teaches buy-to-let investing.
Mark Kennedy: capped 34 times by Eire, he is now part of Ipswich Town's coaching staff.

APRIL 97

In the news

The UK was gearing up for a national election with opinion polls suggesting Labour would regain power by a landslide.



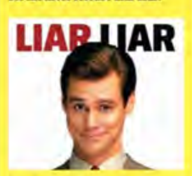
In the charts

R Kelly was top with the single *I Believe I Can Fly* while The Chemical Brothers had the no1 album with *Dig Your Own Hole*.



At the movies

Jim Carrey was pulling lots of daft faces in his new blockbuster release *Liar Liar*.



In sport

Sporting genius Denis Compton had died the previous day. Best known as a fine Test cricketer, he also played for Arsenal against the Reds in the 1950 FA Cup final.



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78 LOOK NORTH
Previewing LFC's trip to Tyneside

The bit at the back for Liverpool's legions of fans at home and all over the world...

The month

DON'T MISS ANY OF THE BUILD-UP ON LFC TV

BAGGIES BACK

West Bromwich Albion were a bogey side for the Reds last season, winning home and away, so Brendan Rodgers and his team will be aiming to put the record straight when Steve Clarke brings his Baggies to Anfield on Saturday 26 October.

Albion followed a 3-0 win on the opening day of season 2012/13 with a shock 2-0 win in L4. One of the key clashes could see Luis Suarez doing battle with his Uruguay team-mate Diego Lugano, who was one of West Brom's summer signings. The month also sees Ian Holloway's Crystal Palace visit Anfield for the first time since November 2004 when they take on the Reds on 5 October.

DON'T MISS SHANKS STAGE SHOW



Ian Callaghan and fellow Shankly stars Ian St John, Ron Yeats and Chris Lawler will join presenter John Keith and narrator Steve Hazlehurst in **The Bill Shankly Story** at Port Sunlight's Gladstone Theatre on Friday 18 October. Tickets for the show, at £16 with £13 concessions, are available in person from the Gladstone Theatre Mon to Fri or call 0151 643 8757. Also at www.gladstonetheatre.org.uk.

ahead

ANNIVERSARIES

20 years since striker Robbie Fowler scored all five goals in a 5-0 League Cup victory over Fulham on 5 October
26 years since midfielder Ray Houghton joined the club on 19 October
39 years since full-back Phil Neal signed for LFC on 9 October
91 years since Harry Chambers scored three in a 5-1 derby win on 7 October
121 years since the legendary Matt McQueen and his brother Hugh made their Liverpool debuts on 29 October



BIRTHDAY XI

Bruce Grobbelaar 56 on	6 Oct
Chris Lawler 70 on	20 Oct
Roy Evans 65 on	4 Oct
Sami Hyypia 40 on	7 Oct
Sebastian Coates 23 on	7 Oct
Glenn Hysen 54 on	30 Oct
Willie Stevenson 74 on	26 Oct
Paul Ince 45 on	21 Oct
Phil Chisnall 71 on	27 Oct
Ian Rush 52 on	20 Oct
Paul Walsh 51 on	1 Oct



Q&A: MARK VOLANTE REPORTER/ PRODUCER AT LFCTV





First game you attended as a fan?
I think it was against Arsenal but I can't be certain. I just remember being on the standing Kop. The people who lived behind me had an older son and I used to play Subbuteo with him. The family had three season-tickets and a game cropped up where they had a spare one. So I went. I can't recall anything about the match – even the score. What stands out is the click of the turnstiles, the steps and the colour and noise of Anfield.

Favourite player growing up?
Robbie Fowler. It has to be. He'll always be my favourite Liverpool player. A local lad who scored loads of goals – who else would you want to be?

First player you interviewed?
Astrit Ajdarevic [a midfielder now with Standard Liege]. He signed for Liverpool in 2007. On his first week at the club I was assigned to interview him. Unfortunately we had to do it three times. On the first occasion, the mic wasn't turned on; the second occasion, the camera didn't record; the third, it went well. It was in the very early days of LFCTV.

How hard is it separating being a fan and doing your job?
Sometimes it's hard. I always celebrate in the press box whenever we score a goal. I know it's not really the thing to do, but I can't help it – it's instinctive. It's a privilege to work for Liverpool and get to go to the matches but nothing beats being with your mates before, during and after games. Especially the big ones when the Kop is bouncing. I can't complain at all, though. It's a brilliant job.

Assuming Istanbul is your favourite game, what's no2 on your list?
The derby where Gary McAllister scored a match-winning free-kick in injury-time at Goodison Park. I was sitting with the Evertonians in the Bullens Road near the Gwladys Street. When it went in I couldn't contain myself.

Favourite away ground?
Again, Goodison Park. Whenever we play there, the atmosphere is always intense because it's a derby, obviously. And it's a traditional ground in an era when there are few of them about.

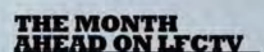
Footballing star whom you were happiest to meet?
Michael Laudrup, the Swansea City manager. He was a great player who I enjoyed watching. But he's also a manager whose teams play good football. He spoke very well.

> **"Goodison is my favourite away ground – always intense for the derby"**

Favourite opposition player?
Thierry Henry definitely. Some of the stuff he could do was on another planet. Nobody could stop him. The way that Arsenal team played, you couldn't help but admire them. Of all our rival clubs at the time, they were the most likeable because of their style.



Gary Mac's 44-yarder



THE MONTH AHEAD ON LFCTV

The half-term holidays are looming but if you're struggling for ideas on how to keep your little Liverpudlians occupied do not despair! LFC TV has the answer – a whole week of *Kop Kids*, including two brand new episodes of the highly acclaimed series. Budding TV stars Liam and Charlotte will be back with a child's-eye view of all things LFC. Re-live the first three episodes before nos 4 and 5 air for the first time.

Among the many exciting new features coming up in the next two action-packed episodes is Lucas Leiva and Jordan Henderson going head-to-head in a fairground theme *Kop Kids* challenge that involves hook-a-duck, coconut shy, crazy golf, ball-in-a-bucket and buzz-wire. Roving reporter Finn visits Melwood to grill Daniel Agger, we take a trip to skills school with a selection of Academy players, catch up with Mighty Red, learn more about our new signings and call in on the children from Rice Lane junior school to discuss football's current hot topics.

KOP KIDS ONE: Monday 21 October
Kop Kids 10am, 3pm, & 6.30pm
KOP KIDS TWO: Tuesday 22 October
Kop Kids 10am, 3pm, & 6.30pm
KOP KIDS THREE: Wednesday 23 October Kop Kids 10am, 3pm, & 6.30pm
KOP KIDS FOUR: Thursday 24 October
Kop Kids 10am, 3pm, & 6.30pm
KOP KIDS FIVE: Friday 25 October
Kop Kids 10am, 3pm, & 6.30pm

For just £2.99 a month LFC TV Online will be offering in-depth coverage of every pre-season fixture as well as LFC TV live, goals, highlights, live reserve games, news and exclusive video interviews. For more information visit www.liverpoolfc.com/video

Delayed coverage of every game will also be available via the club's official television channel, LFC TV, which is free to view on Sky channel 429 or Virgin channel 544.





FIXTURES 13/14

AUGUST

17 Stoke City **(H)** 1-0
24 Aston Villa **(A)** 1-0
27 Notts County **(H)** (COC 2) 4-2*

SEPTEMBER

1 Manchester Utd **(H)** 1-0
16 Swansea City **(A)** 2-2
21 Southampton **(H)** 0-1
25 Manchester Utd **(A)** (COC 3)
29 Sunderland **(A) 4:00pm**

OCTOBER

5 Crystal Palace **(H) 3:00pm**
19 Newcastle Utd **(A) 12:45pm**
26 West Brom **(H) 3:00pm**

NOVEMBER

2 Arsenal **(A) 5:30pm**
9 Fulham **(H) 3:00pm**
23 Everton **(A) 12:45pm**

DECEMBER

1 Hull City **(A) 2:05pm**
4 Norwich City **(H) 7:45pm**
7 West Ham Utd **(H) 3:00pm**
14 Tottenham H **(A)**
21 Cardiff City **(H)**
26 Manchester City **(A)**
28 Chelsea **(A)**

JANUARY 2013

1 Hull City **(H)**
4 FA Cup 3R (TBC)
11 Stoke City **(A)**
18 Aston Villa **(H)**
28 Everton **(H)**

FEBRUARY

1 West Brom **(A)**
8 Arsenal **(H)**
12 Fulham **(A)**
22 Swansea City **(H)**

MARCH

1 Southampton **(A)**
8 Sunderland **(H)**
15 Manchester Utd **(A)**
22 Cardiff City **(A)**
29 Tottenham H **(H)**

APRIL

5 West Ham Utd **(A)**
12 Manchester City **(H)**
19 Norwich City **(A)**
26 Chelsea **(H)**

MAY

3 Crystal Palace **(A)**
11 Newcastle Utd **(H)**
17 FA Cup final

*** after extra-time**

All kick-off times are BST. All Barclays Premier League fixtures are subject to change for the requirements of television and/or for other reasons such as police requests.

Please check **www.liverpoolfc.com** for the latest details as and when they happen.



Newcastle Utd v Liverpool
12.45pm Sunday 19.10.13

Away days

With Newcastle coming up Reds fan Peter Etherington re-lives trips to the Geordie capital

"A tubby winger called Alan Foggon smashing a shot in to the goal that we were sat behind is my first memory of St James' Park," says Peter Etherington, author of *One Boy and His Kop*.

That was in October 1969 and Newcastle United defeated Bill Shankly's team 1-0. Despite the outcome Peter loved the North East venue. "I'd started attending away games towards the end of the 1960s and one of my first was that Newcastle loss. I'd just started working in a timber yard in Bootle and used the cash to go and watch the Reds.

"Foggon had trouble keeping the weight off but he couldn't half move. He thumped the ball in. Although the scoreline was disappointing I was hooked on St James' Park. The ground seemed massive. I think the crowd was around 40,000 but to me it felt like there were 80-90,000 people there. The noise was immense. I was wide-eyed as I tried to take it all in.

"There was a real sense of occasion around the game. In many ways the place reminded me of Anfield. The atmosphere was electric. I think I decided then that I'd try to go to Newcastle every season.

"I haven't missed too many games up there since then. It's very accessible – just a few hours on the motorway. Having said that, I've never been to Sunderland. When it comes to games in the North East it's either Newcastle or nothing for me.

> **"I first went in 1969 and the atmosphere was electric"**

St James' Park



Black-and-whites v Reds from October 1970

"In the first few years of travelling up there we went on a Lawrensons coach from Bootle. I think the fare was around 12 shillings, roughly 60p in today's money. Obviously costs have gone up over the years. If we didn't have any cash we sometimes hitched. No matter which method of transport we used the journey was nearly always enjoyable.

"Naturally some of the time travelling was spent talking about the opposition and I remember the lads mentioning Malcolm MacDonald when we were going to Newcastle in August 1971. Loads of clubs tried to sign him and they'd just paid Luton Town £180,000 for his services – an awful lot of money back then. It was his home debut and he scored a hat-trick as we lost 3-2. The legend of 'Supermac' was born.

"But despite the Geordies idolising him, he didn't cause us loads of trouble over the years. In the 3-2 game it was lashing it down so we came up with the theory that he only played well in wet conditions. 'Super Mac's only good when it's raining' we used to sing at him!



"When we were chasing the title in 1973 Newcastle was our last away league fixture. John Tudor scored twice for them and we lost 2-1. He was an underrated player who didn't get too many headlines because of MacDonald's presence. That result didn't inflict fatal damage as we defeated Leeds in our next game and finished three points ahead of Arsenal to become champions.

"The most memorable part of that afternoon was the sight of the home fans in the Leazes End at the



St James' Park

opposite part of the ground. They all seemed to be wearing a replica shirt – it was a wall of black-and-white stripes. This was some 15 years or so before football shirts were marketed and became a fashion item. We were scratching our heads wondering where they had bought them. There was no Mike Ashley or Sports Direct around then. Some Geordie must have been ahead of the trend and made a few quid. I think TOFFS, the company who produce retro football shirts, are based in Newcastle so there might be some connection to them.

"All the games I've mentioned so far were defeats. Naturally you always want to win, but those results weren't hugely disappointing. There haven't been too many at Newcastle really.

"For me the one that stands out is a New Year's Day loss in 2003. We'd been out the night before and had to be in Ormskirk at some ridiculously early time to get the coach up to the North East the next morning. The weather was awful. It was a freezing day and a horrible trip. Salif Daio got sent off, although I think most of us thought that would have helped our cause. We lost 1-0, Laurent Robert scoring their goal. It seemed to take forever to get home.





"In general I think we've always done well up at St James'. There was the 6-0 last season and a 5-1 win in 2008/09. We could have scored ten that day.

"As I said earlier, I've hardly missed any of our games there. A rare one that I wasn't able to make happened in 1998. Michael Owen scored that brilliant hat-trick and did the celebration where he rubbed his hands together. He was just unstoppable and burned their defenders with his pace.

Owen scores again versus Newcastle

"In general we've had some decent results up there"

"That day, 30 August, was my 45th birthday. For once in my life I was out of work, absolutely skint. I didn't even have enough money to go and watch the game in the pub. Some of my mates came around and dragged me out to see it. While watching I wished I was there.

"Whenever Newcastle aren't in the top flight I miss that particular fixture. No matter what the league positions of the teams it always has a 'big game' feel about it. Whenever I go there now I stay for a few days. I've been there so often I've got to know a few people who I meet in The Black Bull pub not too far from the ground. That's a great location for the fans to mix together before kick-off. It's what an away trip should be about, plus a win of course."

CLASSIC CLASH

20.09.1987
Newcastle Utd 1 Liverpool 4

Kenny Dalglish, usually reluctant to single out individuals for praise, described Steve Nicol as 'the star of an entertaining team performance' after the Scot netted a superb hat-trick at St James'.

Usually employed at full-back, the dynamic Scot started in a right side of midfield role and flourished. He tapped in the opener before John Aldridge made it 2-0. Peter Beardsley created Nicol's second before he sprinted on to an Aldridge pass and chipped the ball over the advancing goalkeeper to earn the match ball.

Nicol also had another goal ruled out for offside in a game the BBC screened live. The fine team performance was one of many on the way to a 1987/88 title victory that contained just two defeats.



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Working with children and adults to help inspire positive change through sport – follow us on Twitter @LFCFoundation to keep up to date with the community team's projects and activities

We are Family

> "We're proud of the work that's gone into the Family Park"

Liverpool FC has won a prestigious award for the matchday Family Park at Anfield that provides fantastic entertainment for all the family before each game.

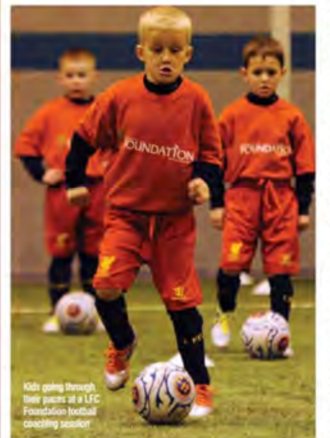
Four Barclays Premier League clubs were given awards for the quality of their customer care as part of a national scheme aimed at improving standards of fan experience at stadia. A panel of experts from the tourism, football and customer-service industries voted Liverpool the VisitFootball Best Fan Innovation for the Family Park 'which makes a day at the football much more than the 90 minutes on the pitch'. This follows on from last year's Warmest Welcome win, awarded to the club by VisitFootball, a joint venture between the Premier League and the national tourism board VisitEngland.

Andrew Parkinson, LFC operations director, says: "We're proud of the work that's gone into the Family Park. This is part of our approach to make Anfield more accessible to families and keep junior Reds entertained before and after the match."

Follow us on Twitter @LFCFoundation

Mighty Red entertaining young Reds (top) and the penalty target area of the Family Park (right)

BACK TO SCHOOL


Kids going through their paces at a LFC Foundation football coaching session

After the busy summer months the Liverpool FC Foundation has gone back to school with a host of new coaching programmes in over 40 schools across Merseyside.

Delivered by LFC community coaches, they help young people improve their life skills through football-based activities. The coaches deliver after-school clubs called 'The Liverpool Way' and run local leagues and tournaments with one school going on to represent LFC at the Premier League School Tournament finals in May 2014.

Non-participating schools won't miss out as the Foundation is setting up coaching sessions aimed at four to 19 year-olds – including the LFC Young Warriors development programme offering a pathway to the Academy. Young female hopefuls also have the chance to be coached by members of Liverpool FC Ladies. Mark Haig from Liverpool FC Foundation says the new partnerships "will allow us to reach out to as many people as possible here in Merseyside."


Liverpool FC Foundation's military veterans team

SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Liverpool FC Foundation runs a military veterans programme to re-engage ex-service personnel with physical activity and help to recapture their spirit of service.

There are over 30,000 military veterans in Liverpool and this figure is likely to significantly increase over the next four years, so it's an important area for the Foundation to provide support for troops when they return to civilian life.

Jason Molloy, 24 and from Bootle, served in the Artillery Regiment for seven years which included tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He joined the programme in 2012 and says: "It's one of the best decisions I've made."

Weekly training sessions are held for the veterans at LFC's Academy in Kirkby and a seven-a-side football league has been created. Liverpool fan Jason adds: "The football is just a way of getting us together. You don't need to be at a great standard – it's for all levels. I would recommend this programme to anyone coming back from duty. It's given me real drive and enthusiasm to keep fit."

The Foundation welcomes more ex-servicemen and women to the programme, which is part-funded by the People's Postcode Trust and also links veterans to education and counselling services opening up pathways to employment opportunities. If you or a family member are interested in taking part, please email: **LFCFoundation@liverpoolfc.com**.





"It needed to be done – Liddell was a great man and a great sportsman"

BILLY IDOL

How one Liverpudlian artisan was moved to commemorate one of the club's true greats

Fred O'Brien has a confession to make. He isn't actually a football fan. But ever since he was a kid growing up in Liverpool he's always had a soft spot for one particular footballer – so much so that around nine years ago he took it upon himself to immortalise the late great Billy Liddell with a special heritage plaque which is now sited near to the entrance to the club museum at Anfield.

To this day Liddell is classed among the greatest players to ever pull on the famous red shirt. Such was the Scot's influence throughout his time at Anfield – he was largely responsible for keeping LFC's head above the abyss of oblivion prior to the arrival of Bill Shankly – that supporters renamed the club 'Liddellpool' in his honour.

Fred, pictured above with a black replica of the plaque (the one at Anfield is in red) specialises in memorial and interpretative design. In 1996, for the BFI's centenary of cinema in Britain, he created 263 plaques now found all over the country commemorating film locations, cinema and studio sites and the birthplaces of movie stars.

"I'm potty about cinema and history," he says. "But I've always admired Billy Liddell – as did his opponents as much as his colleagues and fans. He was never booked, and he combined his football with a career as an accountant – the one and only time I fleetingly met him was in 1962 after he'd retired and become bursar of Liverpool University's guild of undergraduates."

O'Brien decided upon the plaque after talking to John Keith, veteran journalist and broadcaster and author of *Billy Liddell: The Legend who carried the Kop*. Made from photo-mechanically etched zinc, it was officially unveiled by Billy's widow Phyllis and another Reds legend, Ian Callaghan, on 4 November 2004.

"It would be wonderful if one day the club could create a Billy Liddell award for services to sportsmanship," continues Fred. "He was a great man and a great sportsman. I did the plaque, quite simply, because I felt it needed to be done."

Replicas of the plaque are available to purchase in three sizes. Please contact bembo1700@gmail.com.

The plaque in full

OUR MAN IN NIJMEGEN

Simon Hughes speaks to the Scouse goal machine who took Scotland by storm before moving to the Dutch top flight for a new challenge

After scoring 26 league goals for Motherwell last season, Michael Higdon became the first non-Old Firm winner of the Scottish players' player of the year award since Aberdeen's Jim Bett in 1990. Not so long ago, such an achievement would have resulted in a move to one of England's top clubs – and indeed Higdon's three-year record at Fir Park was superior to that of Ian St John's before he signed for Liverpool under Bill Shankly.

But Michael had other options when he elected to move at the end of his contract. While Celtic's Victor Wanyama and Gary Hooper headed south of the border – to Southampton and QPR respectively – clubs from all over the world tried to sign striker Higdon, who grew up supporting Liverpool from his home in the suburb of Litherland.

PAOK Salonika of Greece and Russia's Amkar Perm and Tom Tomsk made offers and Chinese clubs Shanghai Shenhua and Jiangsu Sainty got in touch. Championship clubs Charlton, Doncaster and Barnsley also showed interest and would have been the easier choices of destination, but Higdon had already played two seasons at that level with Crewe Alexandra. He fancied "something different." After speaking with NEC Nijmegen's Victor Palsson, a former midfielder at LFC's Academy, he signed a two-year contract in Holland. "I'm the only English footballer in the Eredivisie at the moment," he says proudly. "I could've made more money at other places but I wanted to try it here. If it works out, then brilliant. If it doesn't, at least I can say I've tried."

Higdon is now one of only three English players abroad in a senior European league. Michael Mancienne is currently starting his third season with Germany's Hamburger SV while Anton Ferdinand joined Antalyaspor of Turkey in August. With his wife and young daughter still living in Scotland, Michael insists the transition to life in Holland hasn't been "too bad" considering the absence from family.

"I think a lot of players are scared to break the routine. When I'm retired I wouldn't want to think I wasn't bold enough to have a go. If anyone asked what it was like, I'd tell them to do it. The language, the culture, the football – it's all different and interesting. That's what life should be about."



Michael in action for NEC Nijmegen against RKC Waalwijk

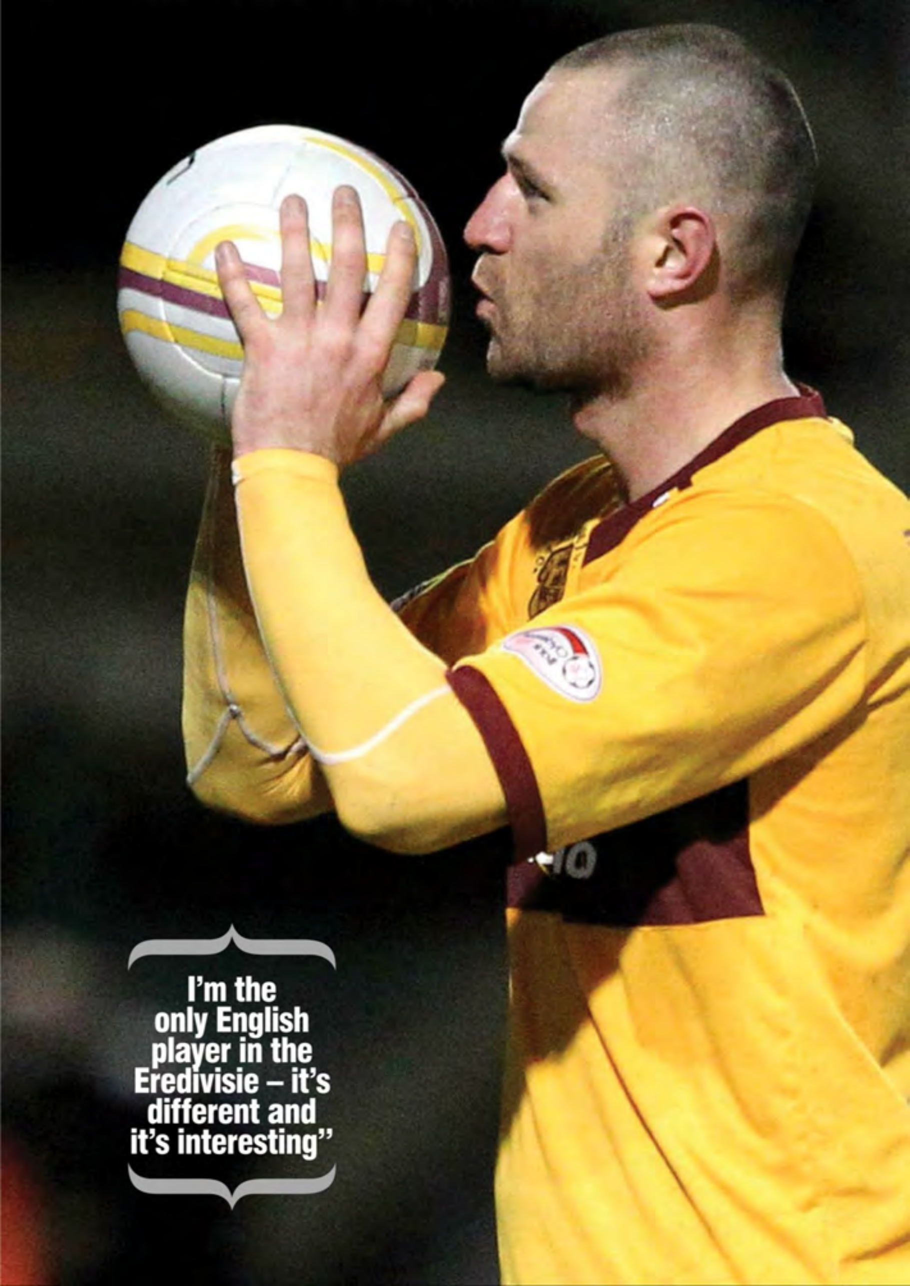
Higdon's career path is one less trodden. Aged 14 he played two practice games for Liverpool's youth teams but the club didn't make him an offer. "It left me deflated." Then halfway through a two-hour trial with Crewe, Dario Gradi removed him from the session. "I must have done something right because we went to Gresty Road and I signed schoolboy forms straightaway."

Originally a central midfielder, Higdon had to change his position after suffering a stress fracture to the bottom of his back that meant he lost some of the athleticism in his play. "Dario thought I wasn't able to play midfield and I agreed, so I had to find a way to adjust."

Michael moved to Scotland in 2007, first with Falkirk then two years with St Mirren before joining Motherwell in 2011. Until that point his career was marked by two defining goals: one against Coventry which kept Crewe in the Championship on the final day of the 2004/05 season; the other saving Falkirk from SPL relegation four years later. At Motherwell he was part of the side that capitalised on the demotion of Glasgow Rangers to become the second-best team in Scotland.

Before last season Higdon had scored 15 and 16 in his previous campaigns. After Motherwell boss Stuart McCall signed Estonian forward Henrik Ojamaa in 2012 to partner him, his record became prolific. "Henrik would do all the running and I'd do the flicking and the scoring. It was a classic little-and-large combination," says 6ft 2in Higdon. "Playing with good players helps, but if you find consistency you're on to a winner."

His efforts were recognised by fellow players in May. "Any footballer will tell you it's the best award to win. You're fighting with opponents every week and you're never sure whether they like you or not, whether they think you're good. I don't think anything will top receiving that accolade."


I'm the only English player in the Eredivisie – it's different and it's interesting"

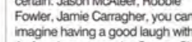


TOP OF THE KOPS part one

A couple of Reds from two top local bands pick their favourite Liverpool players for every occasion...


Matt's in the foreground here

Matt Bower from The Sterlings



Good night out

One of the Liverpool-born lads for certain: Jason McAteer, Robbie Fowler, Jamie Carragher, you can imagine having a good laugh with. As for where to go, the Cavern Club to watch a few bands would do nicely.

Best dressed

I'll go for Jamie Redknapp because he usually looks smart on Sky Sports. The worst dressed has to be Djibril Cisse. I remember a picture of him getting out of some ridiculous pimped-out car in a shiny bubble jacket with his white hair. It's not exactly what a lad should be wearing round Liverpool.

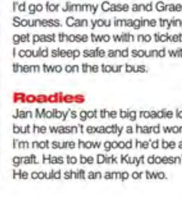
Front man

Well certainly not Kevin Keegan, as my dad and his band The Fourmost played on his record *It Ain't Easy* and he said he was bricking it about singing! Plus some of his haircuts were a bit dodgy too. I'll go with Barry Venison – he looked the part didn't he?

Give us a hand with them Marshalls, Dirk lad







"My dad played on one of Kevin Keegan's records"

The muscle

Security at gigs normally work in pairs, so I'd have to take two on the road. I'd go for Jimmy Case and Graeme Souness. Can you imagine trying to get past those two with no ticket? I could sleep safe and sound with them two on the tour bus.

Roadies

Jan Molby's got the big roadie look, but he wasn't exactly a hard worker so I'm not sure how good he'd be at the graft. Has to be Dirk Kuyt doesn't it? He could shift an amp or two.

Five-a-side

John Lennon is the first name on the team sheet. I reckon he'd be a bit tricky on the ball too, bamboozling little runs past people. Rod Stewart can go in the team too because I'm reliably informed he's half-decent. We'll give Noel Gallagher and Paul Weller a run-out and I'll go up top and stick a few away.

Live at Anfield

The Stereophonics because I like their music and they played at Anfield a few years back with McCartney for the Hillsborough Campaign. I'd stick a re-formed Oasis on the bill as well as Cast and Ocean Colour Scene. I'm a 90s indie kid so the good old bands would be a killer show.

No1 album or league title?

From a diplomatic point-of-view I'll say the band having a number one. From a selfish point-of-view though I'd have the trophy, the bragging rights, and the open-top bus parade every time!

The Sterlings latest single She Said *is on sale online from 7 October*





TOP OF THE KOPS cont'd

That's Timo right on the end

Timo Tierney from Tea Street Band

Good night out

The obvious one, Kenny Dalglish. I wouldn't want a wild time, just to sit in the boozer and have a good chat over a bottle of Cains. I'd treat it as an opportunity to pick the brains of a football genius.

Best dressed

I remember seeing Robbie Fowler coming out of Wade Smith in 1996. He looked smart, not glammed-up. Pair of jeans, some decent Adidas trainers and that bleached blonde hair. The worst were Salif Diao and El Hadji Diouf. I wasn't a fan of some of John Barnes' gear but I can't skit him because he's a legend.



"Fowler looked smart with decent trainers and that hair"

Front man

Craig Johnston. We went to Australia for the pre-season tour for a gig and Craig sang *Ferry Cross the Mersey* on stage with us. He's got a bit of the Status Quo look these days but he's got the right attitude. Like a lot of Aussies, he's a proper rocker. He plays the guitar really well.

The muscle

Steven Gerrard. He'd look after everyone. Just with that look he gives. He'd run a tight ship, I reckon. He'd get everyone motivated.

Roadies

Let's say Jamie Carragher. I know he'd get the job done, shouting at the sound men if things weren't right.

Five-a-side

Bob Marley would be in there because he was boss at footie. Mick Head out of Shack, because he's a good lad and a decent player. [Bruce] Springsteen would be in goal. He'd be quick across the floor. I'd throw Ian McCulloch in there too. I'd love to see him and Mick Head in the same team.

Live at Anfield

It was going to be The Beatles but I'd rather play with Shack at Anfield. We're both from Kensington, they're my favourite song-writers and Anfield is my favourite place apart from my mum and dad's house!

No1 album or league title?

Sorry but it's got to be number one! Music has never let me down whereas football has. I used to go all the time with my dad and my uncle in the early 90s. Then Oasis came along and I realised how much I wanted to get into music too.



"Who are you calling Francis Rossi?"



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WISH LIST

There's no excuse for not supporting the Mighty Reds in style and these are just a few must-haves from the **Official LFC Collection**. The new range in its entirety can be viewed and purchased online at **www.liverpoolfc.com/store** and any Official LFC Club Store







1 Molsby Zip Thru £55
Fusing a relaxed aesthetic with a match-ready vibe this cosy and cool zip-thru will help to take on the elements during the long season (A1860)

2 Silverstone Polo £35
Give your Liverpool FC collection a cool hit of contemporary style with this throw-on-and-go polo that instantly feels like an old favourite (A1826)

3 Mens Bugatti Zip Neck Polo £25
A versatile essential that ticks all the LFC boxes. Black stripes on the zip-neck round collar and sleeves and a retro club crest make this a sound foundation for your matchday outfits (A1814)

4 Gambler Training All Weather Jacket £40
Technical expertise meets street cool with this hard-wearing and durable jacket that's got the matchday weather covered (WSJM359)

5 LFC Neppy Yarn Cuffed Beanie £15
When the chill sets in it's the perfect opportunity to wear this stylish and snug beanie – your saviour throughout the season's cold months (A1968)





All featured products are available in official club stores and online at **www.liverpoolfc.com/store**



David PRICE

More competition can bring out the best in our stalwarts

Liverpool looked like they needed some more solidity in defence after last season so it was interesting to see Brendan Rodgers move to strengthen his options at the back before the transfer window closed.

Mamadou Sakho seems to be an interesting character. For me centre-halves are a bit like heavyweight boxers in that they mature a bit later and get better as they get older. Most of the best centre-halves are in their 30s but Sakho is a good young player who I really like the look of.

I believe they were screaming in France about why PSG had let him go so we're possibly fortunate to get him. I was watching Jamie Carragher on the telly the other week and he was talking about him being a left-sided centre-half like Daniel Agger and where he would fit in, but Brendan Rodgers is probably thinking long-term with Sakho.

Competition for places is always good and that's been highlighted with Martin Skrtel coming back in. He looked like he was down the pecking order but came back in and played well in the home league game against Manchester United. Skrtel has had his ups and downs like everyone does but that competition seems to have given him the bit between his teeth. I think he wants to prove people wrong and that's a good motivation to have as a player.

Something all Liverpool fans can look forward to this month is the return of Luis Suarez. I'm sure he'll get a good reception when he steps out at Anfield again.

> **"This is the time for some players down the pecking order to prove people wrong"**



Liverpool fans are loyal and, personally, I understand why he may have been a little bit frustrated because he's too good a footballer not to be playing Champions League football. But he's going to be coming back into a team near the top of the table and hopefully he can still achieve his ambitions at Liverpool.

One thing you know with Luis Suarez is that whenever he goes on the pitch, he's going to give 100 per cent no matter what. He's still an idol to everyone at Liverpool and what's gone on over the summer will be yesterday's news once he's back starring in a red shirt again. In my head I've been wondering where he might fit in but Philippe Coutinho's injury may make it easier to slot him in. What's for sure is that it's exciting to have him coming back.

We're only a few games into the season and despite the home setback against Southampton the signs are good. We've got a prolific goalscorer in Daniel Sturridge. We've looked solid in defence and the team has been gelling. It was one thing saying last season was a transitional one because we felt like we'd heard that before. As it looks now though, perhaps that was the case as the players have settled into the ways and beliefs of Brendan Rodgers and his staff and are showing that they believe in those methods.

I'm back in training and hoping to get back into the ring before Christmas with a view to defending my British and Commonwealth titles early next year. I'm keen to get the ball back rolling and return to winning ways, then get back towards where I was heading only this time making sure that I get there.

Follow David on Twitter @DavidPrice_1


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What is your most prized LFC possession?



JAMO KELLY @jkjamo
Actual grass that my mate took from the pitch of the Ataturk stadium in 2005

MATTHEW COX
@MattCox
A hat that I had signed by Stevie and Carra in Boston

RYAN AYLIFFE
@ryanayliffe95
A signed 1978 LFC annual given to me granddad

NADIA A ZAWAWI
@Nadia_Zawawi
LFC flag signed by legends over the past 10 years

STEVIEG @MrWales75
Pictures say a 1,000 words allegedly – 12 months, 5 trophies 2001

PATRICK ATKINS
@mod234
My season ticket. I've had it for 32 years

THE RAGAMUFFINS
@TheRagamuffins
A signed 90/91 team poster that my gran got for me

SCOTT WILLIAMSON
@Kashmir4
My handshake with Kenny – there for the rest of my life

LFC104 @MightyRed2012
A piece from a Kop seat accidentally broken off by my mate during 2004/05!

BEN CROSSLAND
@bencrossland
My armband signed by Carra. It brings me luck

ANDY MILBURN
@AndrewGMilburn
I won a compo to be in an official team photo in 1979

STUART MACDONALD
@Stumpymacde20
A John Aldridge shirt signed by the man himself






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